

TRENDS

What are the Skill Needs for the Available, Critical, and Projected Jobs?

by: *Sylvia D. Jones, Senior Research Analyst*

*Occupations found in industries with the greatest forecasted short-term employment growth were matched against the O*NET skills database. This resulted in each occupation having a set of associated skills with varying levels of importance. Operation and control is the fastest growing primary skill in the short term. The top 10 list of most important is dominated by fundamental skills (e.g., active listening, speaking, reading comprehension, mathematics, and writing) emphasizing the importance of basic education.*

O*NET, the Occupational Information Network, is a comprehensive database of worker attributes and job characteristics (O*NET Consortium, n.d.). The database serves as a resource that supports public and private sector efforts to identify and develop the skills of the American workforce. It provides a common language for defining and describing occupations. Its flexible design also captures rapidly changing job requirements. Part of this design includes 46 skills that describe

worker requirements. Each is ranked by importance from 1 to 5 for each occupation. The 46 skills are divided into six broad categories:

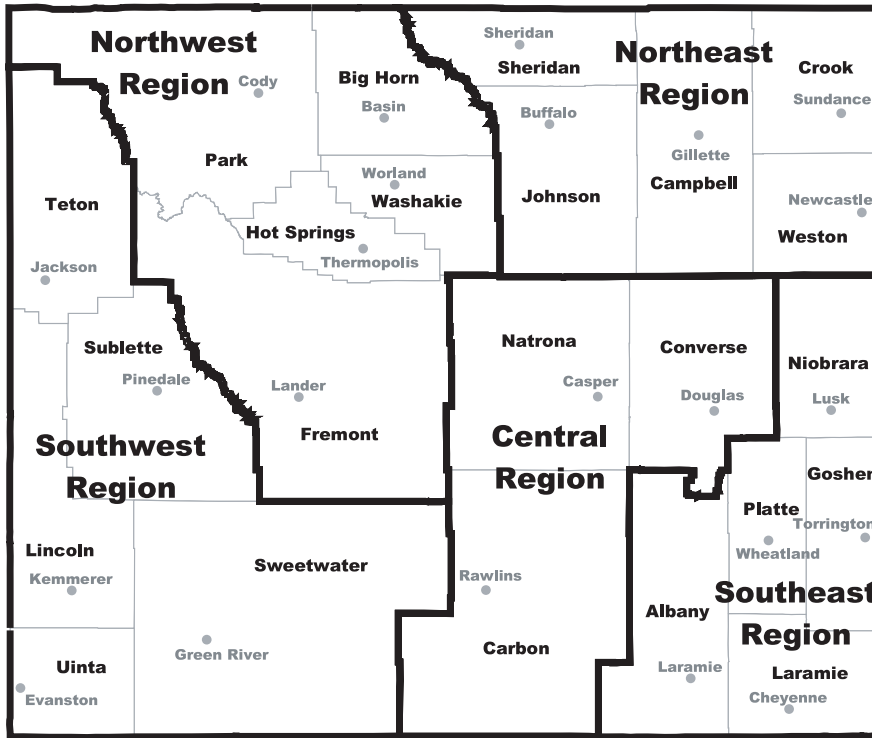
- Content Skills
- Process Skills
- Social Skills
- Technical Skills
- Systems Skills
- Resource Management Skills

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Labor shortages in critical occupations may be manifest in related occupations as workers upgrade to higher-paying jobs....page 8**
- **The number of jobs worked increased 2.7% from 2004 to 2005....page 11**
- **By 2004, almost 1 in 5 persons who worked at any time in the state was a nonresident reflecting the growing dependence on a nonresident workforce....page 13**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Cynthia A. Pomeroy, Director

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ISSN 0512-4409

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Skill Needs of the Available Jobs

Occupations found in industries with the greatest forecasted short-term employment growth (See Table 1; Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d.) were matched against the O*NET skills database. This resulted in each occupation having a set of associated skills with varying levels of importance.

As an example, Table 2 (see page 4) illustrates the level of importance for the various skills for one occupation: travel agents. The level of importance can range from 1 to 5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most important. In this case, coordination, service orientation, and speaking are the three most important. Installation, programming, repairing, and science are the least important.

Table 1 illustrates the primary O*NET skill only. Using this method, each job is represented by only one skill. Therefore, employment projections can also be used as a skills projection because each job reflects a primary skill.

Table 1: Projected Growth of Primary Occupation Skill for Occupations in Industries With the Greatest Forecasted Short-Term Employment Growth, 2003 - 2005

| O*NET Skill | Number of Occupations | Employment | | Job Growth 2003 - 2005 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|
| | | 2003 | 2005 | |
| Operation and Control | 48 | 9,441 | 10,012 | 571 |
| Service Orientation | 26 | 13,884 | 14,369 | 484 |
| Equipment Selection | 16 | 5,857 | 6,316 | 459 |
| Installation | 17 | 4,397 | 4,749 | 352 |
| Instructing | 36 | 12,208 | 12,537 | 329 |
| Mathematics | 21 | 5,050 | 5,378 | 329 |
| Coordination | 20 | 5,104 | 5,384 | 281 |
| Repairing | 22 | 3,416 | 3,678 | 262 |
| Management of Personnel Resources | 10 | 2,961 | 3,155 | 194 |
| Reading Comprehension | 16 | 2,949 | 3,127 | 178 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 7 | 4,238 | 4,414 | 176 |
| Speaking | 27 | 2,701 | 2,864 | 163 |
| Product Inspection | 22 | 2,719 | 2,868 | 148 |
| Information Gathering | 19 | 1,598 | 1,708 | 110 |
| Problem Identification | 14 | 1,518 | 1,615 | 97 |
| Persuasion | 6 | 1,397 | 1,489 | 91 |
| Operation Monitoring | 1 | 977 | 1,062 | 84 |
| Time Management | 5 | 2,258 | 2,324 | 66 |
| Information Organization | 10 | 1,249 | 1,314 | 64 |
| Judgment and Decision Making | 10 | 929 | 992 | 64 |
| Science | 15 | 795 | 851 | 56 |
| Active Listening | 7 | 641 | 675 | 34 |
| Troubleshooting | 7 | 523 | 550 | 26 |
| Management of Financial Resources | 2 | 397 | 421 | 24 |
| Critical Thinking | 4 | 277 | 298 | 20 |
| Social Perceptiveness | 7 | 467 | 484 | 17 |
| Programming | 3 | 275 | 289 | 15 |
| Idea Generation | 6 | 157 | 166 | 9 |
| Writing | 3 | 152 | 161 | 9 |
| Testing | 3 | 124 | 133 | 9 |
| Operations Analysis | 5 | 113 | 121 | 8 |
| Implementation Planning | 3 | 92 | 99 | 6 |
| Learning Strategies | 1 | 99 | 101 | 3 |
| Active Learning | 2 | 29 | 32 | 2 |
| Identification of Key Causes | 1 | 23 | 25 | 1 |
| Negotiation | 1 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| Visioning | 1 | 6 | 7 | 0 |
| Management of Material Resources | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Monitoring | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Systems Evaluation | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Note: Skills reflect only the primary skill required for the occupation.

Operation and control is the fastest growing primary skill in the short term (between 2003 and 2005), with an expected increase of 571 associated

jobs across 48 different occupations. Operation and control is defined as *controlling operations of equipment or systems* and is a component of such

Table 2: O*NET Skills and Associated Level of Importance for Travel Agents (SOC^a 41-3041)

| O*Net Skill | Level of Importance |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Coordination | 4.0 |
| Service Orientation | 4.0 |
| Speaking | 4.0 |
| Implementation Planning | 3.8 |
| Active Listening | 3.5 |
| Information Gathering | 3.5 |
| Mathematics | 3.2 |
| Reading Comprehension | 3.2 |
| Identification of Key Causes | 3.0 |
| Persuasion | 3.0 |
| Problem Identification | 3.0 |
| Time Management | 3.0 |
| Idea Generation | 2.8 |
| Information Organization | 2.8 |
| Judgment and Decision Making | 2.8 |
| Social Perceptiveness | 2.8 |
| Critical Thinking | 2.7 |
| Solution Appraisal | 2.7 |
| Writing | 2.5 |
| Negotiation | 2.3 |
| Operation and Control | 2.3 |
| Operations Analysis | 2.3 |
| Active Learning | 2.2 |
| Idea Evaluation | 2.2 |
| Product Inspection | 2.2 |
| Synthesis/Reorganization | 2.2 |
| Monitoring | 2.0 |
| Systems Perception | 2.0 |
| Identifying Downstream Consequences | 1.8 |
| Management of Financial Resources | 1.8 |
| Management of Material Resources | 1.8 |
| Visioning | 1.7 |
| Equipment Selection | 1.5 |
| Learning Strategies | 1.5 |
| Systems Evaluation | 1.3 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 1.2 |
| Instructing | 1.2 |
| Management of Personnel Resources | 1.2 |
| Operation Monitoring | 1.2 |
| Technology Design | 1.2 |
| Testing | 1.2 |
| Troubleshooting | 1.2 |
| Installation | 1.0 |
| Programming | 1.0 |
| Repairing | 1.0 |
| Science | 1.0 |

^aStandard Occupational Classification.

occupations as commercial pilots (Standard Occupational Classification [SOC] 53-2012), petroleum pump systems operators (SOC 51-8093), and broadcast technicians (SOC 27-4012). Service orientation is the second fastest growing skill with an expected increase of 484 jobs in 26 occupations (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d).

Technical skills such as equipment selection, installation, and repairing comprise the largest percentage of the top 10 fastest growing skills. These are very concrete skills as opposed to basic learning skills or more abstract constructs like visioning. This finding further emphasizes results which report that the majority of job growth in Wyoming will require on-the-job training rather than advanced education (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d).

In order to develop a profile of the growth of all rather than just the primary skill, we created an index of importance. Each skill associated with an occupation was given a relative weight based on the O*NET assigned level of importance. The weights were applied to the occupational projections so expected changes in skill importance could be observed.

Table 3 (see page 5) contains an index of importance for 2003 to 2005. The index was created only for occupations found within industries with the greatest projected short-term employment growth (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d). According to this measure, active listening and speaking are the two most important. None of the skills

changed in their relative importance during the short-term projection period. This can be interpreted to mean that the foundation of Wyoming's economy and its dependence on basic skills is unlikely to change quickly.

Of the top 10 highest ranking, basic skills (e.g., active listening, speaking, reading comprehension, mathematics, and writing) comprised the largest percentage. Every occupation relies to some extent on the ability of workers to communicate and learn.

Skill Needs of the Projected Jobs

The same process of matching O*NET skills to occupations and ranking them by level of importance was applied to occupations found in industries with the greatest forecasted long-term employment growth 2002-2012 (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d). Table 4 (see page 6) illustrates the projected growth of the primary skill. In this case, service orientation is the fastest growing with an expected increase of 3,519 associated jobs. Operation and control is the second fastest with growth of 2,232 jobs.

Although the relative order changed over the forecast period, the broad category of technical skills remained the largest contributor to the top 10. This was again in line with projected educational requirements of

(Text continued on page 3)

Table 3: Index of Skills Needs Reflecting Changes in the Projected Staffing Pattern for Occupations in Industries With the Greatest Forecasted Short-Term Employment Growth, 2003 - 2005

| O*NET Skill | Index of Importance | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------|
| | 2003 | 2005 |
| Active Listening | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Speaking | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Reading Comprehension | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Problem Identification | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Mathematics | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Information Organization | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Product Inspection | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Writing | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Information Gathering | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Equipment Selection | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Coordination | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Social Perceptiveness | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Monitoring | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Operation and Control | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Service Orientation | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Judgment and Decision Making | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Solution Appraisal | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Identification of Key Causes | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Critical Thinking | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Time Management | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Idea Evaluation | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Active Learning | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Implementation Planning | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Idea Generation | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Learning Strategies | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Operation Monitoring | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Management of Material Resources | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Troubleshooting | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Synthesis/Reorganization | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Visioning | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Instructing | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Installation | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Repairing | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Systems Perception | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Identifying Downstream Consequences | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Operations Analysis | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Science | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Systems Evaluation | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Management of Personnel Resources | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Testing | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Management of Financial Resources | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Persuasion | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Technology Design | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Negotiation | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Programming | 0.5 | 0.5 |

Table 4: Projected Growth of Primary Occupation Skill for Occupations in Wyoming Industries With the Greatest Forecasted Long-Term Employment Growth, 2002 - 2012

| O*Net Skill | Number of Occupations | Employment | | Job Growth 2002 - 2012 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|
| | | 2002 | 2012 | |
| Service Orientation | 30 | 20,832 | 24,351 | 3,519 |
| Operation and Control | 49 | 9,419 | 11,651 | 2,232 |
| Equipment Selection | 16 | 4,511 | 5,885 | 1,374 |
| Instructing | 37 | 12,253 | 13,506 | 1,253 |
| Coordination | 20 | 5,169 | 6,387 | 1,218 |
| Repairing | 22 | 3,303 | 4,377 | 1,074 |
| Mathematics | 19 | 3,590 | 4,580 | 991 |
| Installation | 16 | 3,111 | 4,014 | 903 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 7 | 4,561 | 5,350 | 789 |
| Reading Comprehension | 15 | 2,839 | 3,585 | 746 |
| Product Inspection | 23 | 3,057 | 3,751 | 694 |
| Speaking | 26 | 2,709 | 3,401 | 692 |
| Management of Personnel Resources | 10 | 2,597 | 3,227 | 630 |
| Information Gathering | 19 | 1,553 | 2,026 | 473 |
| Social Perceptiveness | 7 | 1,682 | 2,124 | 443 |
| Problem Identification | 14 | 1,355 | 1,757 | 403 |
| Persuasion | 6 | 1,209 | 1,556 | 347 |
| Time Management | 5 | 2,571 | 2,918 | 347 |
| Science | 15 | 983 | 1,281 | 298 |
| Information Organization | 10 | 1,189 | 1,461 | 272 |
| Operation Monitoring | 1 | 947 | 1,215 | 268 |
| Judgment and Decision Making | 9 | 587 | 789 | 202 |
| Active Listening | 7 | 702 | 864 | 162 |
| Troubleshooting | 7 | 509 | 610 | 102 |
| Critical Thinking | 4 | 269 | 369 | 100 |
| Programming | 3 | 261 | 320 | 59 |
| Management of Financial Resources | 2 | 206 | 251 | 45 |
| Writing | 3 | 143 | 180 | 37 |
| Operations Analysis | 5 | 111 | 146 | 35 |
| Idea Generation | 6 | 142 | 177 | 35 |
| Testing | 3 | 114 | 146 | 32 |
| Implementation Planning | 3 | 88 | 115 | 27 |
| Active Learning | 2 | 29 | 39 | 10 |
| Learning Strategies | 1 | 93 | 101 | 8 |
| Identification of Key Causes | 1 | 19 | 24 | 5 |
| Negotiation | 1 | 16 | 19 | 3 |
| Visioning | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| Management of Material Resources | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Monitoring | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Systems Evaluation | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Note: Skills reflect only the primary skill required for the occupation.

Table 5: Index of Skills Needs Reflecting Changes in the Projected Staffing Pattern for Occupations in Industries With the Greatest Forecasted Long-Term Employment Growth in Wyoming, 2002 - 2012

| O*NET Skill | Index of Importance | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------|
| | 2002 | 2012 |
| Active Listening | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Speaking | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Reading Comprehension | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Problem Identification | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Mathematics | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Writing | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Service Orientation | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Information Gathering | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Information Organization | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Product Inspection | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Coordination | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Social Perceptiveness | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Monitoring | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Operation and Control | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Equipment Selection | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Solution Appraisal | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Judgment and Decision Making | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Identification of Key Causes | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Critical Thinking | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Time Management | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Idea Evaluation | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Active Learning | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Implementation Planning | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Idea Generation | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Learning Strategies | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Management of Material Resources | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Operation Monitoring | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Instructing | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Visioning | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Synthesis/Reorganization | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Troubleshooting | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Systems Perception | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Repairing | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Operations Analysis | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Identifying Downstream Consequences | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Installation | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Management of Financial Resources | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Systems Evaluation | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Management of Personnel Resources | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Persuasion | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Science | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Testing | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| Technology Design | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Negotiation | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Programming | 0.5 | 0.5 |

primarily on-the-job training (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d.).

Table 5 contains the index of importance for the occupations with the greatest forecasted long-term occupational employment growth. The relative importance is similar to that found in occupations whose primary skill is service orientation in that active listening and speaking are the two most important (Wyoming Department of Employment, n.d.).

Two skills increased their index over the time period by 0.1: implementation planning and troubleshooting. This indicates that we project those to be somewhat more in demand in 2012 than in 2002. The top 10 is dominated by fundamental skills; emphasizing the importance of basic education.

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O*NET Consortium. (n.d.). *What is O*NET?* Retrieved April 11, 2005, from <http://www.onetcenter.org/overview.html>

Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning. (n.d.). *Employment and Occupational Projections*. Retrieved May 11, 2005, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/outlTOC.htm>



Examples of Associated Indirect Occupational Overlap

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

Occupational growth within industries may also be affected by associated or indirect overlap among critical occupations. This overlap occurs in occupations that are technically separate, but have substantial overlapping skills sets such that job changing is likely under the right market conditions. Thus, growth in one occupation not only creates a demand for individuals already in that occupation (i.e., from interstate labor sources) but may also create labor shortages in other related occupations within the state as sufficient pay, geographic location of jobs, and training opportunities converge to make an upgrade probable.

To illustrate this point, Table 1 shows related occupations for rotary drill operators, oil & gas (Standard Occupational Classification Code [SOC] 47-5012). According to a recent press release, drillers in the state want to train 5,000 workers in drilling rig operations (Bleizeffer, 2005). Related occupations for rotary drill operators, oil & gas include three other

construction and extraction occupations (paving, surfacing, & tamping equipment operators; operating engineers & other construction equipment operators; and derrick operators, oil & gas).

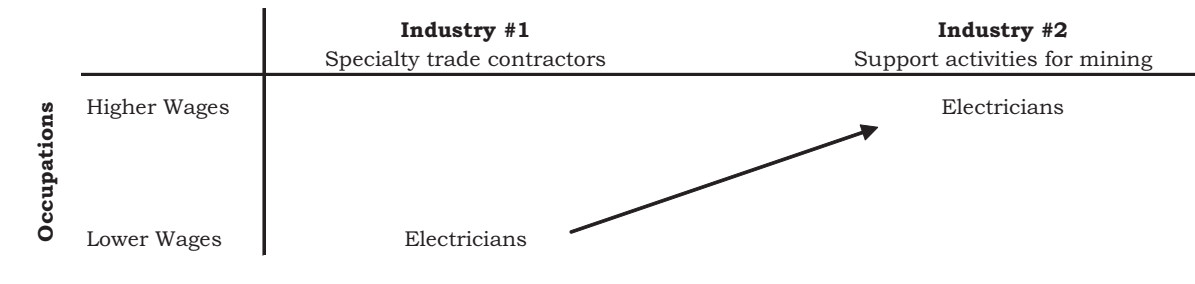
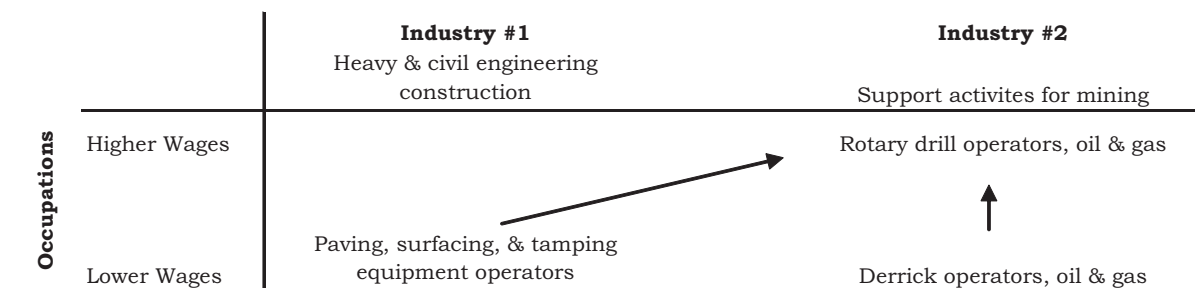
Among the four related occupations shown in Table 1, rotary drill operators, oil & gas has the highest average hourly wage. Wage driven job changing toward rotary drill operators, oil & gas from the other related occupations is likely and may cause labor shortages among other industries employing these occupations (e.g., specialty trade contractors; heavy & civil engineering construction; construction of buildings; and mining [except oil & gas]). Construction and extraction occupations are likely areas of potential competition and bottleneck within the state over the next decade. The Figure (see page 9) illustrates graphically the concepts of wage driven direct occupational movement between industries (see Panel A) and related movement both inter- and intra-industry (see Panel B).

Recent growth in oil and gas development in the state is also a likely driver for growth

Table 1: Wyoming ANSWERS^a Related Occupations for Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas (SOC 47-5012)

| Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code and Title | | Average Hourly Wage |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 47-5012 | Rotary drill operators, oil & gas | \$18.13 |
| 47-2071 | Paving, surfacing, & tamping equipment operators | \$16.13 |
| 47-2073 | Operating engineers & other construction equipment operators | \$16.12 |
| 47-5011 | Derrick operators, oil & gas | \$17.83 |

^aSee <http://doe.state.wy.us/ANSWERS/>

Figure: Wage Driven Direct and Related Occupational Movement**Panel A (Direct Occupational Movement)****Panel B (Related Occupational Movement)**

within professional and technical services among occupations that support oil and gas development. Civil engineers (SOC 17-2051), surveyors (SOC 17-1022), chemical technicians (SOC 19-4031), civil engineering technicians (SOC 17-3022), and surveying & mapping technicians (SOC 17-3031) are likely candidates.

Potential Mitigating Factors

Wyoming's current labor supply system may mitigate some of the critical occupational shortages that can occur as a result of direct and associated occupational overlap among industries.

Of jobs held by May 2002 Wyoming community college graduates (588 jobs total), 14.2% (84 jobs) were in construction & extraction; installation, maintenance &

repair; production; and transportation & material moving (see Table 2, page 10).

Although it is unlikely that current output from Wyoming's community colleges is sufficient to supply projected demand, steps could be taken to increase the number of Wyoming graduates with technical skills.

Surveys of employers who hired graduates reveal that they were highly satisfied with the work habits and skills of Wyoming's community college graduates (Saulcy, 2004) involved in technical training programs (e.g., 7.5 on a scale of 1 to 10 for graduates from construction trades instructional programs and 8.2 on a scale of 1 to 10 for graduates from transportation and materials moving programs). Wyoming's community college system may be

Table 2: Jobs Held in Wyoming by May 2002 Wyoming Community College Graduates^a by Major Occupational Group, Second Quarter 2003

| 2-Digit SOC ^b Code and Title | Total Graduates | |
|---|-----------------|--------|
| | n | col. % |
| 11 Management | 6 | 1.0% |
| 13 Business & Financial Operations | 3 | 0.5% |
| 15 Computer & Mathematical Science | 7 | 1.2% |
| 17 Architecture & Engineering | 7 | 1.2% |
| 19 Life, Physical, & Social Science | 1 | 0.2% |
| 21 Community & Social Services | 11 | 1.9% |
| 23 Legal | 2 | 0.3% |
| 25 Education, Training, & Library | 59 | 10.0% |
| 27 Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media | 9 | 1.5% |
| 29 Healthcare Practitioner & Technical | 124 | 21.1% |
| 31 Healthcare Support | 26 | 4.4% |
| 33 Protective Service | 12 | 2.0% |
| 35 Food Preparation & Serving Related | 49 | 8.3% |
| 37 Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | 23 | 3.9% |
| 39 Personal Care & Service | 23 | 3.9% |
| 41 Sales & Related | 48 | 8.2% |
| 43 Office & Administrative Support | 89 | 15.1% |
| 45 Farming, Fishing, & Forestry | 5 | 0.9% |
| 47 Construction & Extraction | 30 | 5.1% |
| 49 Installation, Maintenance, & Repair | 23 | 3.9% |
| 51 Production | 12 | 2.0% |
| 53 Transportation & Material Moving | 19 | 3.2% |
| Subtotal | 588 | 100.0% |
| Occupation unavailable ^c | 306 | 34.2% |
| Total | 894 | 100.0% |

^aBased on information obtained from a survey of employers of graduates by Research & Planning. May include multiple responses for a single employer or graduate.

^bStandard Occupational Classification.

^cOccupation information is unavailable because the employer did not respond to the survey, did not report the graduate's occupation as requested, or because the employer reported that they had no record of the graduate as an employee.

Source: Saulcy, S. (2004, August). *Where are they now? Wyoming community college graduates' labor market outcomes 2004*. Casper, WY: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.

underutilized as a supplier of qualified workers.

Summary

Wyoming will likely experience labor supply shortages in occupations critical to oil and gas development over the next decade. Shortages may be manifest, however, in related occupations as individuals make job upgrades driven by wage competition. Substantial instability in oil and gas prices will alter this scenario and are difficult to predict.

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Bleizeffer, D. (2004). *Drillers want to train 5,000 workers*. Casper Star-Tribune. January 22, 2005 (A1, A12).

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Jobs Worked in Wyoming Rises by 7,000 in 2005

by: David Bullard, Valerie Davis, Sherry Wen, and Phil Ellsworth

Table 1 contains annual average data for the Current Population Survey (CPS) population, labor force, jobs worked, unemployed individuals, and annual Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients. The percentage changes for the period 2004 to 2005 indicate that total unemployed workers in Wyoming decreased by 3.3% and total UI recipients decreased by 13.8%. The number of jobs worked increased by 7,000 jobs or 2.7%, which is larger than the 2003 to 2004 increase of 5,400 jobs (2.2%).

In first quarter 2005, Wyoming covered employment grew by 6,338 jobs or 2.7% (see Table 2, page 12). Second quarter over-the-year employment growth remained fairly stable with an increase of 6,953 jobs or 2.8%. Total wages for first quarter showed an over-the-year increase of 6.6%, lower than the second quarter increase of 8.1%.

The Map (see page 12) identifies over-the-year changes in unemployment rates

from November 2004 to November 2005. States with the darkest shading had unemployment rate increases. As a whole, the U.S. experienced a decrease in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates from 2004 (5.4%) to 2005 (5.0%).

The unemployment rates in the hurricane-ravaged southern states of Louisiana and Mississippi continued to lead the nation. In Louisiana, the unemployment rate was 12.4% for November 2005, compared to 5.8% a year earlier. In Mississippi, the November 2005 rate was 9.5%, up from 6.9% in November 2004.

Wyoming's unemployment rate remained constant at 3.9% from November 2004 to November 2005, the 8th lowest rate among the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Alabama and Oregon led states with the steepest declines in unemployment rates over the same period. Alabama's

Table 1: CPS Population, Labor Force, Jobs Worked, Unemployed Individuals, and Annual Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients in Wyoming, 2001-2004 and Projections for 2005

| | 2001 | 2002 | Percent Change 2001-2002 | 2003 | Percent Change 2002-2003 | 2004 | Percent Change 2003-2004 | 2005 ^a | Percent Change 2004-2005 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| CPS Population^b | 377,654 | 383,247 | 1.5% | 388,781 | 1.4% | 395,193 | 1.6% | 400,213 | 1.3% |
| Labor Force | 270,214 | 272,518 | 0.9% | 277,989 | 2.0% | 281,847 | 1.4% | 285,437 | 1.3% |
| Jobs Worked^c | 245,400 | 247,900 | 1.0% | 250,000 | 0.8% | 255,400 | 2.2% | 262,400 | 2.7% |
| Unemployed^d | 10,464 | 11,161 | 6.7% | 12,272 | 10.0% | 11,037 | -10.1% | 10,671 | -3.3% |
| UI Recipients^e | 14,541 | 17,211 | 18.4% | 18,896 | 9.8% | 17,269 | -8.6% | 14,885 | -13.8% |

^aProjected.

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

^cCurrent Employment Statistics (CES) estimates by place of work.

^dNumber of unemployed individuals (12-month average).

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

Table 2: Wyoming Statewide Covered Employment and Total Wages, First and Second Quarters 2004 and 2005

| Average Monthly Employment | | | | Total Wages | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| First Quarter | | Change | | First Quarter | | Change | |
| 2004 | 2005 | Number | Percent | 2004 | 2005 | Amount | Percent |
| 237,469 | 243,807 | 6,338 | 2.7 | \$1,800,808,083 | \$1,919,574,230 | \$118,766,147 | 6.6 |

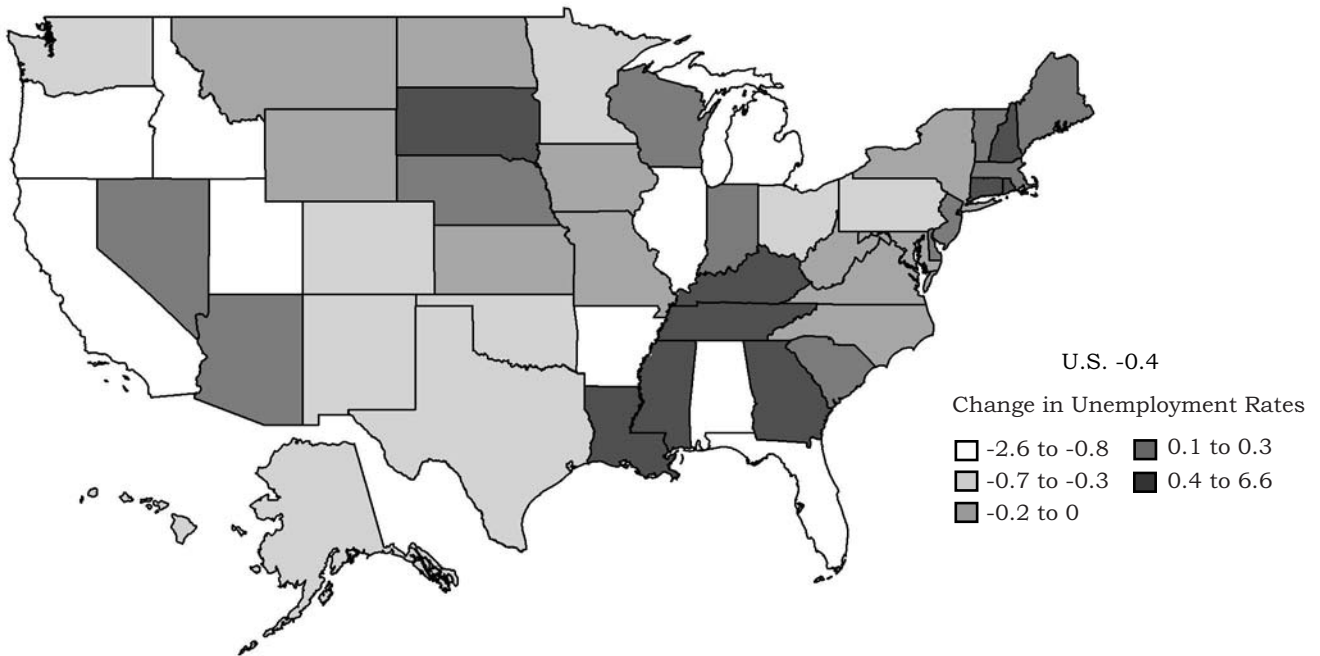
| Average Monthly Employment | | | | Total Wages | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| Second Quarter | | Change | | Second Quarter | | Change | |
| 2004 | 2005 | Number | Percent | 2004 | 2005 | Amount | Percent |
| 250,786 | 257,739 | 6,953 | 2.8 | \$1,909,209,013 | \$2,063,607,638 | \$154,398,625 | 8.1 |

rate dropped from 5.4% to 3.6%, while Oregon’s rate declined from 7.2% to 5.8%.

Of Wyoming’s neighboring states, South Dakota saw the greatest increase

in its unemployment rate, from 3.5% in November 2004 to 4.0% in November 2005. Nebraska’s rate increased slightly, while Utah saw the second largest decline in its rate, from 5.1% to 4.0%, followed by Idaho (4.5% to 3.7%).

Map: Change in the Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate by State, November 2004 to November 2005



New Labor for Wyoming's Labor Market

by: Tom Gallagher, Manager

data prepared by: Sylvia D. Jones, Senior Research Analyst

The growing number of job vacancies in Wyoming emphasizes the need for development of retention and replacement strategies. This development of a strategy also requires an assessment of the goals of the recruiting process; for example, source states for nonresident workers are not necessarily the same for workers who establish themselves as residents.

Efforts to recruit workers to fill an increasing number of job vacancies in an aging Wyoming workforce requires an analysis of historic trends and an appreciation of the extent to which certain industries are dependent on nonresident workers (Gallagher et al., 2005; Henderson, 2004; Jones, 2005). Between 1994 and 2004 the number of nonresidents working at any time in the state grew by 43.5% while the number of Wyoming residents working grew by 10.6%. By 2004, 1 in 5 (17.8%) of those who worked in the state was a nonresident.

With a growing dependence on a nonresident workforce, it seems reasonable that development of an informational framework that could support an inter-state recruitment strategy, and a means of evaluating that strategy, begins by determining from which states workers have historically migrated. This will serve as a foundation for more detailed investigations of local economies within these states.

Among our findings is that source states for nonresident workers are not necessarily the same source states for workers who establish themselves as residents. Whether the goal of the recruitment process is to simply obtain workers or to obtain workers who then are more likely to become residents will have an affect on where one recruits. If the goal of recruiting workers who are likely to become residents is

adopted, then the strategy should probably limit itself to a regional focus. However, if the goal is to simply obtain more workers, the strategy may become more far reaching.

To some extent, the regional competition for labor is also a competition for residents. Knowing the goal of the recruitment process is important to the subsequent steps in the "how to" process. As can be seen in Table 2 of the article "Jobs Worked in Wyoming Rises by 7,000 in 2005" on page 11, several states in the immediate vicinity have average wage growth below Wyoming's wage growth and may serve as sources of new relocating labor. However, these states may not be the most prominent source of nonresident labor. Further, since many of these states have economies similar in key respects to Wyoming, the competition for experienced labor in targeted occupations may be a regional phenomenon.

Tables 1 (see page 14), 2, and 3 (see page 15) present information on recent sources of nonresident labor by state and for selected industries for the periods 2002 and 2004. In 2004, 10 states including Texas and California were responsible for more than 56.6% of the 57,547 nonresident persons who worked at any time in Wyoming. However, as can be seen in the graphic displaying unemployment rates for these top 10 states (see Figure, page 16), from 2002 to 2005, the rate of unemployment has been declining fairly

rapidly. Tightening labor markets among source states may partially explain some of the loss of nonresident labor to the Construction industry from 2002 to 2004.

Between 2002 and 2004, fairly dramatic changes were taking place in the industries in which many nonresidents worked. Between 2002 and 2004, the number of nonresidents working in Construction declined by 19.7%, or a net 2,054 workers, while at the same time the number of nonresidents working in the Mining industry increased by 42.9% or 1,662 persons.

Many workers in Construction possess skills that are transferable to higher wage firms in Mining. The net difference between those who left Construction (-2,054) and those nonresidents who went into Mining (1,662), represents a net loss of 392 workers to Wyoming's labor market. Net losses of Construction workers relative to gains in workers in the Mining industry occurred for workers from California (-238 Construction workers compared to a net increase of 239 workers in the Mining industry), Texas, Utah, Montana, and Idaho.

These net losses among the six most prominent source states for nonresident workers may be a function of the improved demand for workers in these source states and possibly distance from Wyoming.

The clear evidence is that any recruitment strategy that focuses on interstate markets must be flexible enough to aggressively incorporate information about changing markets at both the source state and sub-state levels.

Skills transferability from the Construction industry to the Mining

(Text continued on page 16)

Table 1: Wyoming Nonresidents Who Worked at Least One Quarter During 2002 by Industry

| State of Origin | | Natural Resources & Mining | Construction | All Other | Grand Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| TX | n | 398 | 1,328 | 2,165 | 3,891 |
| | col.% | 10.3 | 11.6 | 5.2 | 6.8 |
| CA | n | 386 | 1,439 | 5,073 | 6,898 |
| | col.% | 10.0 | 12.6 | 12.2 | 12.1 |
| MT | n | 380 | 515 | 1,847 | 2,742 |
| | col.% | 9.8 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| CO | n | 328 | 742 | 3,019 | 4,089 |
| | col.% | 8.5 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| SD | n | 327 | 290 | 1,326 | 1,943 |
| | col.% | 8.4 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| UT | n | 315 | 958 | 2,163 | 3,436 |
| | col.% | 8.1 | 8.4 | 5.2 | 6.0 |
| ND | n | 164 | 162 | 740 | 1,066 |
| | col.% | 4.2 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| AZ | n | 125 | 512 | 968 | 1,605 |
| | col.% | 3.2 | 4.5 | 2.3 | 2.8 |
| NE | n | 124 | 222 | 1,376 | 1,722 |
| | col.% | 3.2 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| WA | n | 115 | 310 | 1,373 | 1,798 |
| | col.% | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| ID | n | 99 | 818 | 1,806 | 2,723 |
| | col.% | 2.6 | 7.1 | 4.3 | 4.8 |
| NM | n | 95 | 338 | 560 | 993 |
| | col.% | 2.5 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| OK | n | 77 | 353 | 598 | 1,028 |
| | col.% | 2.0 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| OR | n | 77 | 185 | 985 | 1,247 |
| | col.% | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| KS | n | 66 | 202 | 821 | 1,089 |
| | col.% | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| IL | n | 56 | 200 | 1,328 | 1,584 |
| | col.% | 1.4 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| MN | n | 55 | 174 | 833 | 1,062 |
| | col.% | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| LA | n | 54 | 412 | 376 | 842 |
| | col.% | 1.4 | 3.6 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| MO | n | 51 | 138 | 682 | 871 |
| | col.% | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| MI | n | 45 | 197 | 971 | 1,213 |
| | col.% | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Balance of U.S.^a | n | 537 | 1,963 | 12,546 | 15,046 |
| | col.% | 13.9 | 17.1 | 30.2 | 26.4 |
| Total Nonresidents^b | | 3,874 | 11,458 | 41,556 | 56,888 |
| Total Residents | | 20,841 | 23,431 | 215,859 | 260,131 |
| Total Workers | | 24,715 | 34,889 | 257,415 | 317,019 |
| Nonresident % of Total | | 15.7% | 32.8% | 16.1% | 17.9% |

^aIncludes District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Pacific Islands, and Railroads.

^bIncludes only valid social security numbers.

Table 2: Wyoming Nonresidents Who Worked at Least One Quarter During 2004 by Industry

| State of Origin | | Natural Resources & Mining | Construction | All Other | Grand Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| TX | n | 695 | 905 | 2,497 | 4,097 |
| | col.% | 12.6 | 16.3 | 5.8 | 7.1 |
| CA | n | 625 | 1,201 | 5,395 | 7,221 |
| | col.% | 11.3 | 21.7 | 12.6 | 12.5 |
| MT | n | 441 | 408 | 1,920 | 2,769 |
| | col.% | 8.0 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| CO | n | 483 | 850 | 3,528 | 4,861 |
| | col.% | 8.7 | 15.4 | 8.2 | 8.4 |
| SD | n | 328 | 250 | 1,319 | 1,897 |
| | col.% | 5.9 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| UT | n | 507 | 754 | 2,419 | 3,680 |
| | col.% | 9.2 | 13.6 | 5.7 | 6.4 |
| ND | n | 221 | 163 | 536 | 920 |
| | col.% | 4.0 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| AZ | n | 134 | 503 | 1,264 | 1,901 |
| | col.% | 2.4 | 9.1 | 3.0 | 3.3 |
| NE | n | 122 | 199 | 1,416 | 1,737 |
| | col.% | 2.2 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| WA | n | 160 | 215 | 1,419 | 1,794 |
| | col.% | 2.9 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| ID | n | 144 | 601 | 1,898 | 2,643 |
| | col.% | 2.6 | 10.9 | 4.4 | 4.6 |
| NM | n | 131 | 283 | 582 | 996 |
| | col.% | 2.4 | 5.1 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
| OK | n | 173 | 223 | 651 | 1,047 |
| | col.% | 3.1 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| OR | n | 101 | 159 | 1,016 | 1,276 |
| | col.% | 1.8 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| KS | n | 104 | 159 | 747 | 1,010 |
| | col.% | 1.9 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| IL | n | 97 | 156 | 1,299 | 1,552 |
| | col.% | 1.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| MN | n | 55 | 146 | 840 | 1,041 |
| | col.% | 1.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| LA | n | 138 | 270 | 415 | 823 |
| | col.% | 2.5 | 4.9 | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| MO | n | 72 | 119 | 119 | 943 |
| | col.% | 1.3 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 1.6 |
| MI | n | 46 | 138 | 913 | 1,097 |
| | col.% | 0.8 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| Balance of U.S. ^a | n | 759 | 1,502 | 12,614 | 14,242 |
| | col.% | 13.7 | 16.3 | 29.5 | 24.7 |
| Total Nonresidents^b | | 5,536 | 9,204 | 42,807 | 57,547 |
| Total Residents | | 21,770 | 21,878 | 221,395 | 265,043 |
| Total Workers | | 27,306 | 31,082 | 264,202 | 322,590 |
| Nonresident % of Total | | 20.3% | 29.6% | 16.2% | 17.8% |

^aIncludes District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Pacific Islands, and Railroads.

^bIncludes only valid social security numbers.

Table 3: Change in the Number of Nonresidents Working in Wyoming: 2002 and 2004

| State of Origin | | Natural Resources & Mining | Construction | All Other | Grand Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| TX | n | 297 | -423 | 332 | 206 |
| | col.% | 17.9 | 20.6 | 31.6 | 31.3 |
| CA | n | 239 | -238 | 322 | 323 |
| | col.% | 14.4 | 11.6 | 30.6 | 49.0 |
| MT | n | 61 | -107 | 73 | 27 |
| | col.% | 3.7 | 5.2 | 6.9 | 4.1 |
| CO | n | 155 | 108 | 509 | 772 |
| | col.% | 9.3 | -5.3 | 48.4 | 117.1 |
| SD | n | 1 | -40 | -7 | -46 |
| | col.% | 0.1 | 1.9 | -0.7 | -7.0 |
| UT | n | 192 | -204 | 256 | 244 |
| | col.% | 11.6 | 9.9 | 24.4 | 37.0 |
| ND | n | 57 | 1 | -204 | -146 |
| | col.% | 3.4 | 0.0 | -19.4 | -22.2 |
| AZ | n | 9 | -9 | 296 | 296 |
| | col.% | 0.5 | 0.4 | 28.2 | 44.9 |
| NE | n | -2 | -23 | 40 | 15 |
| | col.% | -0.1 | 1.1 | 3.8 | 2.3 |
| WA | n | 45 | -95 | 46 | -4 |
| | col.% | 2.7 | 4.6 | 4.4 | -0.6 |
| ID | n | 45 | -217 | 92 | -80 |
| | col.% | 2.7 | 10.6 | 8.8 | -12.1 |
| NM | n | 36 | -55 | 22 | 3 |
| | col.% | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| OK | n | 96 | -130 | 53 | 19 |
| | col.% | 5.8 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 2.9 |
| OR | n | 24 | -26 | 31 | 29 |
| | col.% | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.9 | 4.4 |
| KS | n | 38 | -43 | -74 | -79 |
| | col.% | 2.3 | 2.1 | -7.0 | -12.0 |
| IL | n | 41 | -44 | -29 | -32 |
| | col.% | 2.5 | 2.1 | -2.8 | -4.9 |
| MN | n | 0 | -28 | 7 | -21 |
| | col.% | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.7 | -3.2 |
| LA | n | 84 | -142 | 39 | -19 |
| | col.% | 5.1 | 6.9 | 3.7 | -2.9 |
| MO | n | 21 | -19 | -563 | 72 |
| | col.% | 1.3 | 0.9 | -53.6 | 10.9 |
| MI | n | 1 | -59 | -58 | -116 |
| | col.% | 0.1 | 2.9 | -5.5 | -17.6 |
| Balance of U.S. ^a | n | 222 | -461 | 68 | -804 |
| | col.% | 13.4 | 22.4 | 6.5 | -122.0 |
| Total Nonresidents^b | | 1,662 | -2,054 | 1,051 | 659 |
| | | 42.9% | -19.7% | 3.0% | 1.2% |
| Total Residents | | 929 | -1,553 | 5,536 | 4,912 |
| | | 4.5% | -6.6% | 2.6% | 1.9% |
| Total Workers | | 2,591 | -3,607 | 6,587 | 5,571 |
| | | 10.5% | -10.9% | 2.6% | 1.8% |

^aIncludes District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Pacific Islands, and Railroads.

^bIncludes only valid social security numbers.

industry is also suggested by the net change in employment levels for residents as well. From 2002 to 2004, the number of persons who worked at any time in the Construction industry declined by 1,553 persons while the net number working in Mining increased by 929. Other industries which form the supporting framework for the Mining industry have also been successful traditionally in competing for Construction workers.

Manufacturing; Transportation & Warehousing; Utilities; and high wage, male dominated industries have traditionally been successful competitors for workers from the Construction industry.

These findings suggest that if the target industry for recruitment is the Construction industry, the industry that successfully competes for recruited workers is as likely to be Mining or one of the higher wage, male dominated industries which support it. The measure of successful recruitment may need to be tempered by the practicalities of the intrastate competition for workers with transferable skills.

Detailed tables showing the number of nonresidents and residents working in all

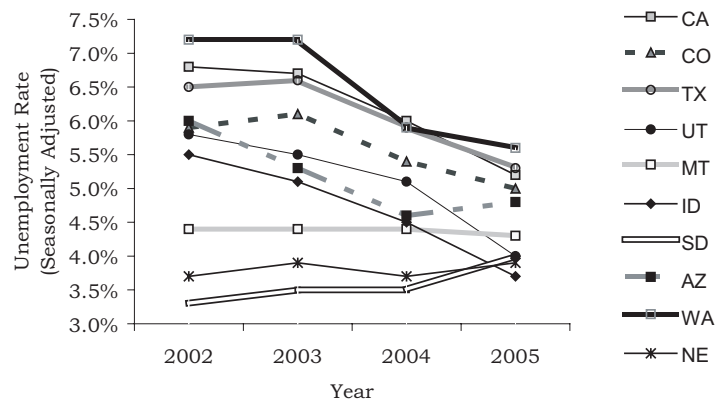
industries for 2002 and 2004 are online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ResTables.htm>.

Methodological Note

Establishing which states have historically been the source of nonresident workers is based on analysis developed with the assistance of several other states using the criteria described in <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0804/a1supp.htm>.

Through interstate data sharing agreements and a common research agenda, research offices in South Dakota and Nebraska, with R&P, have tested the administrative records approach to defining residency and found it reliable.

Figure: Unemployment Rates for November 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005



References

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Henderson, C. R. (2004). Economic recovery and labor availability in Wyoming. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 41(7), 1-7, 16.

Jones, S. (2005). Labor retention: Out-migration of youth. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 42(6), 1-6, 8.



Wyoming's Total Payroll Increases by 11.6% in 2005

by: Carol Toups, Senior Economist

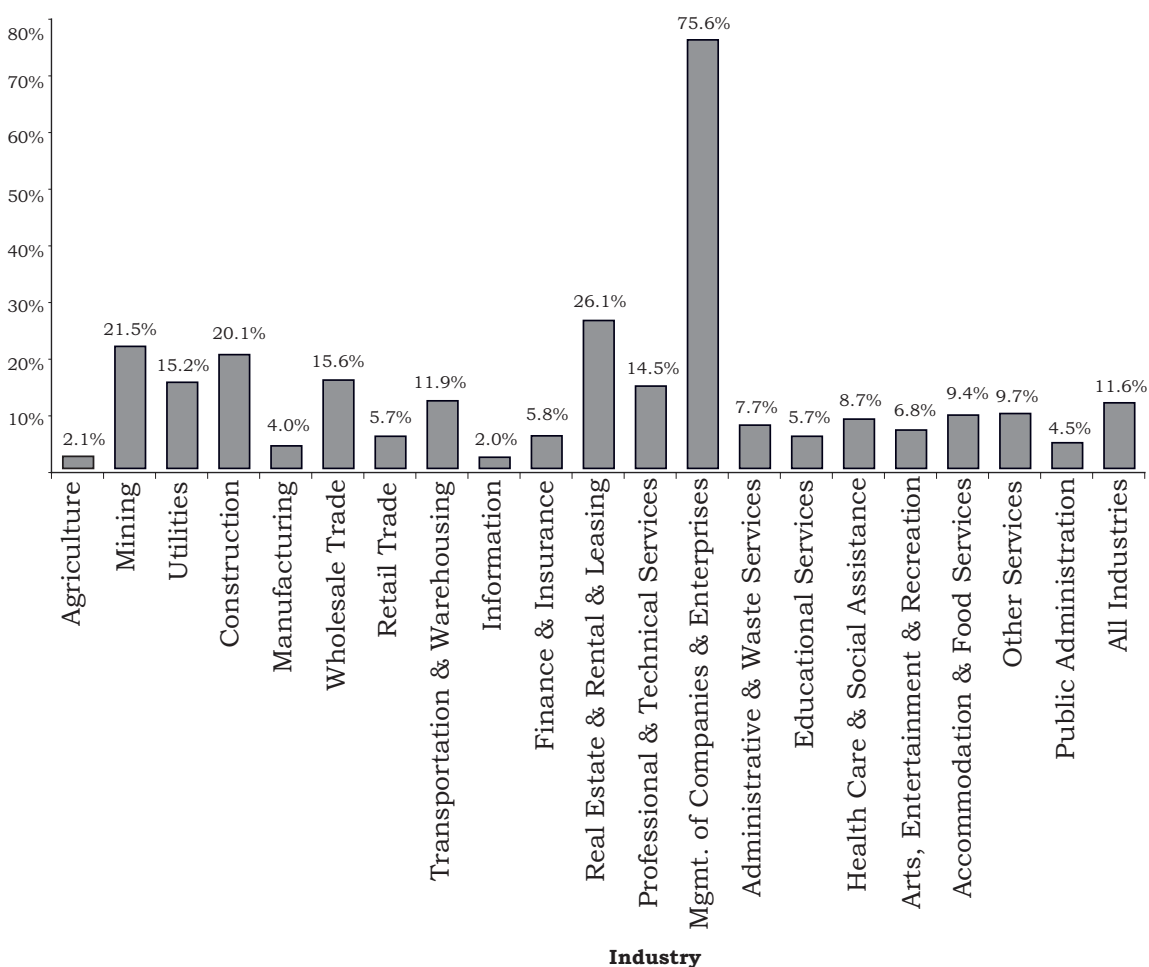
Preliminary numbers from the Unemployment Insurance covered employment indicate a total payroll increase of 11.6% from third quarter 2004 to third quarter 2005. This is an over-the-year increase of over \$227 million.

Industries contributing to the majority of total payroll increases included: Mining, which grew by \$64.3 million or 21.5%; Construction was up by \$34.5 million or 20.1%; and Health Care & Social Assistance rose by \$20.3 million or 8.7%.

As the Figure below shows, the two industries with the largest payroll percentage increases occurred in Management of Companies & Enterprises (75.6% or \$8.9 million) and Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing (26.1% or \$6.4 million). However, those industries represent a small percentage of Wyoming's total payroll.

All Wyoming industries had payroll increases during the year, with the lowest starting at 2.0%.

Figure: Percent Change in Total Wages in Wyoming by Private Industry, Third Quarter 2004 to 2005



Labor Market Outcomes of Wyoming Community College Graduates

Introduction

The primary purpose of this research is to provide impartial measures of the strengths and weaknesses of community college programs from a labor market perspective. The research also supports educational improvement and the accreditation process.

Research & Planning measured graduates' employment, earnings, and skill sets by matching administrative databases with survey research information. Prospective students, parents and community college administrators, as well as workforce and economic development professionals, are among beneficiaries of the information.

In this report, *industry* refers to where people work, whereas *occupation* refers to the type of work people perform.

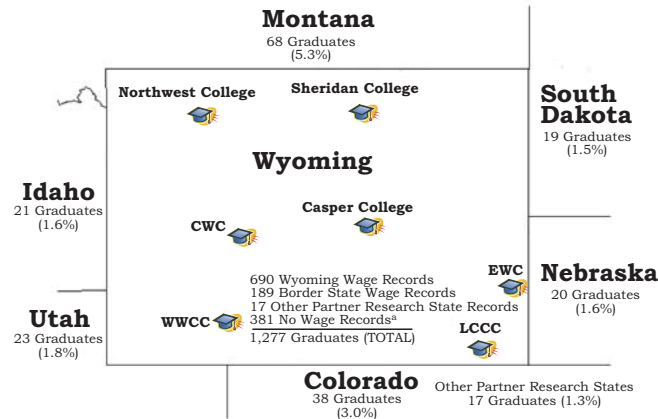
May 2002 Wyoming Community College Graduates by Industry and Work Location, Second Quarter 2003

| Industry | Work Location | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | WY | Partner Research State ^a | |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 35 | 10 | 45 |
| Row % | 77.8% | 22.2% | 100.0% |
| Construction | 31 | 13 | 44 |
| Row % | 70.5% | 29.5% | 100.0% |
| Manufacturing | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Row % | 63.6% | 36.4% | 100.0% |
| Wholesale Trade, Trans., & Utilities | 27 | 6 | 33 |
| Row % | 81.8% | 18.2% | 100.0% |
| Retail Trade | 73 | 27 | 100 |
| Row % | 73.0% | 27.0% | 100.0% |
| Information | 15 | 2 | 17 |
| Row % | 88.2% | 11.8% | 100.0% |
| Financial Activities | 26 | 9 | 35 |
| Row % | 74.3% | 25.7% | 100.0% |
| Professional & Business Services | 67 | 17 | 84 |
| Row % | 79.8% | 20.2% | 100.0% |
| Education Services | 75 | 13 | 88 |
| Row % | 85.2% | 14.8% | 100.0% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 210 | 50 | 260 |
| Row % | 80.8% | 19.2% | 100.0% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 45 | 21 | 66 |
| Row % | 68.2% | 31.8% | 100.0% |
| Other Services | 17 | 9 | 26 |
| Row % | 65.4% | 34.6% | 100.0% |
| Public Administration | 53 | 15 | 68 |
| Row % | 77.9% | 22.1% | 100.0% |
| Unclassified | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Row % | 25.0% | 75.0% | |
| Total | 690 | 206 | 896 |
| Row % | 77.0% | 23.0% | 100.0% |

^aStates with which Wyoming holds a data sharing agreement (CO, ID, MT, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, and UT).

Wyoming Community Colleges

Work Location of May 2002 Wyoming Community College Graduates, Second Quarter 2003



Earnings

- Of all graduates, more than half had wages in the state approximately one year after graduation.
- Graduates earned more on average than the wage of Wyoming workers overall for a comparable set of occupations.

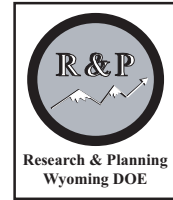
Jobs Held^a in Wyoming by May 2002 Wyoming Community College Graduates by Major Occupational Group, Second Quarter 2003

| Occupation | Graduates' Jobs | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | n | % |
| Management | 6 | 0.7% |
| Business & Financial | 3 | 0.3% |
| Computer & Mathematical Science | 7 | 0.8% |
| Architecture & Engineering | 7 | 0.8% |
| Life, Physical, & Social Science | 1 | 0.1% |
| Community & Social Services | 11 | 1.2% |
| Legal | 2 | 0.2% |
| Education, Training, & Library | 59 | 6.6% |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Media | 9 | 1.0% |
| Healthcare Practitioner & Technical | 124 | 13.9% |
| Healthcare Support | 26 | 2.9% |
| Protective Service | 12 | 1.3% |
| Food Preparation & Serving Related | 49 | 5.5% |
| Building & Grounds Maintenance | 23 | 2.6% |
| Personal Care & Service | 23 | 2.6% |
| Sales & Related | 48 | 5.4% |
| Office & Administrative Support | 89 | 10.0% |
| Farming, Fishing, & Forestry | 5 | 0.6% |
| Construction & Extraction | 30 | 3.4% |
| Installation, Maintenance, & Repair | 23 | 2.6% |
| Production | 12 | 1.3% |
| Transportation & Moving | 19 | 2.1% |
| Subtotal | 588 | 65.8% |
| Occupation unavailable | 306 | 34.2% |
| Total | 894 | 100.0% |

^aBased on responses to occupational questions from a survey of employers of graduates. May include multiple responses for a single employer or graduate.

Wyoming Department of Employment Research & Planning

P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 473-3807
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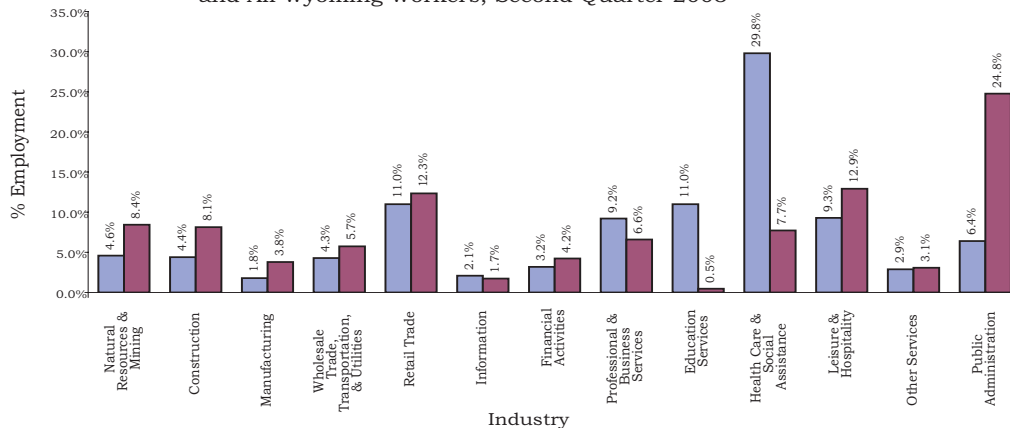


The full report is available from Research & Planning's website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/CollegeReport2004.pdf>

Occupations and Industries

- Graduates working in Wyoming were most commonly employed in Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations (124 jobs), followed by Office & Administrative Support (89 jobs) and Education, Training, & Library (59 jobs).
- The Health Care & Social Assistance industry employed the greatest percentage of graduates in the second quarter of 2003 (29.8%) followed by Retail Trade and Education Services (11.0% each).

Percent of Jobs by Industry of May 2002 Wyoming Community College Graduates^a and All Wyoming Workers, Second Quarter 2003



^aMay include multiple responses for a single employer or graduate. ■ Graduates ■ All Wyoming Workers

Wyoming Job Growth Continues in October 2005

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming job growth continued as 7,500 new jobs (2.9%) were created compared to October 2004. As in previous months, significant growth occurred in Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) and Construction.

It appears that Wyoming's economy is benefiting from relatively high energy prices. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.1% and remained well below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0%. From September to October, employment followed its normal seasonal pattern and declined by 2,800 jobs or 1.0%. Seasonal job losses in Construction (-700 jobs or -3.2%), Retail Trade (-600 jobs or -1.9%), and Leisure & Hospitality (-3,500 jobs or -10.2%) were partially offset by gains in Educational & Health Services (300 jobs or 1.3%) and Government (1,800 jobs or 2.8%). Government job gains were found

primarily in local government education (including public school districts and community colleges).

Over the year, Natural Resources & Mining added 2,000 jobs or 9.4% and Construction gained 1,500 jobs or 7.5%. Other growing industries included Educational & Health Services (800 jobs or 3.7%), Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities (400 jobs or 3.3%), and Professional & Business Services (400 jobs or 2.6%).

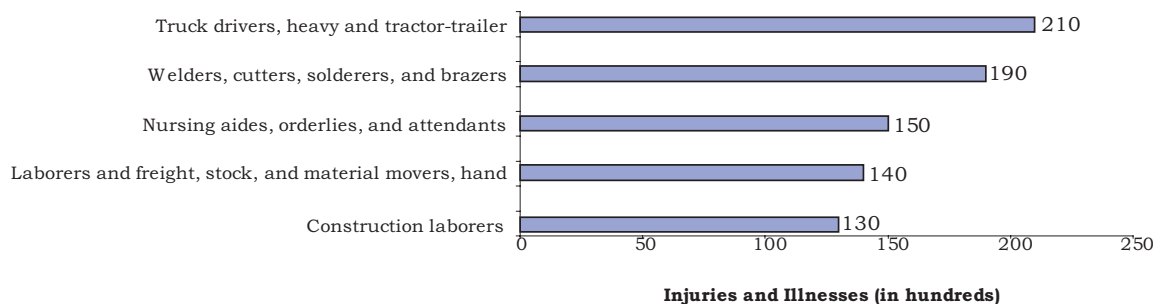
Across Wyoming's 23 counties unemployment remained low in October. Platte County posted the highest unemployment rate (4.6%) followed by Fremont (4.4%). Laramie (4.1%), Goshen (4.1%), and Hot Springs (4.1%) counties were the only other areas with rates exceeding 4.0%.

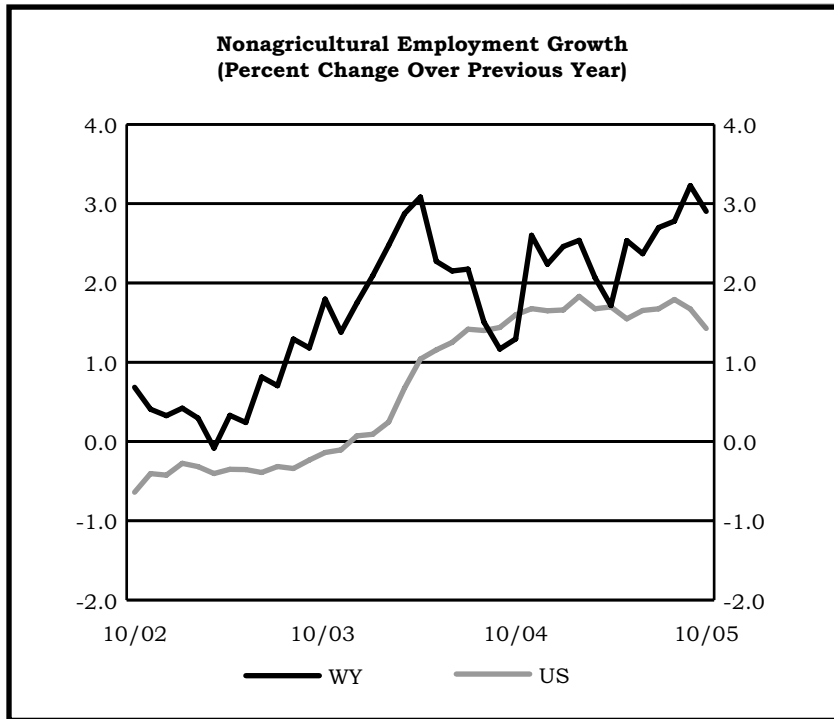


Now Available from Research & Planning

Case and Demographic Data from the Occupational Safety and Health Survey for 2004
at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/OSH/toc.htm>

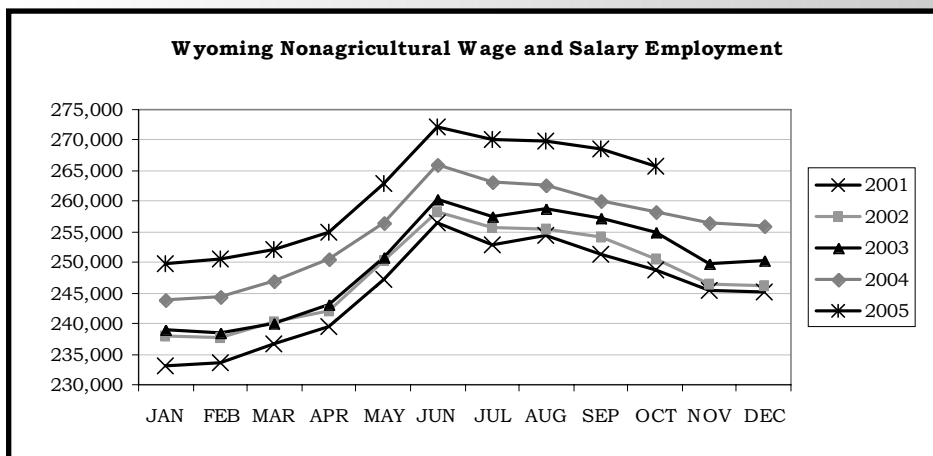
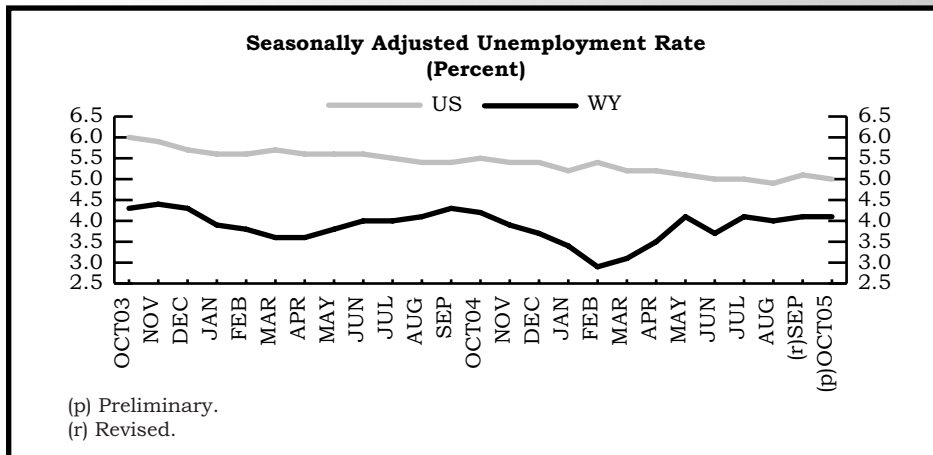
Figure: Wyoming Occupations With the Most Injuries and Illnesses With Days Away From Work, Private Industry, 2004





State Unemployment Rates October 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted)

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.6 |
| Louisiana | 11.3 |
| Mississippi | 9.6 |
| Alaska | 6.9 |
| South Carolina | 6.9 |
| District of Columbia | 6.1 |
| Michigan | 6.1 |
| Kentucky | 6.0 |
| Oregon | 6.0 |
| Ohio | 5.9 |
| Tennessee | 5.6 |
| Washington | 5.6 |
| Georgia | 5.5 |
| Illinois | 5.5 |
| Indiana | 5.4 |
| New Mexico | 5.4 |
| Rhode Island | 5.4 |
| Connecticut | 5.3 |
| North Carolina | 5.3 |
| California | 5.2 |
| Maine | 5.2 |
| Texas | 5.2 |
| West Virginia | 5.2 |
| Kansas | 5.0 |
| Missouri | 5.0 |
| United States | 5.0 |
| Arizona | 4.9 |
| Arkansas | 4.9 |
| Colorado | 4.9 |
| New York | 4.9 |
| Massachusetts | 4.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.6 |
| Alabama | 4.5 |
| Iowa | 4.5 |
| Utah | 4.5 |
| Wisconsin | 4.5 |
| Montana | 4.3 |
| Oklahoma | 4.3 |
| Delaware | 4.2 |
| Maryland | 4.1 |
| Nevada | 4.1 |
| Wyoming | 4.1 |
| South Dakota | 4.0 |
| Vermont | 4.0 |
| New Hampshire | 3.9 |
| New Jersey | 3.9 |
| Minnesota | 3.7 |
| Nebraska | 3.7 |
| Idaho | 3.6 |
| North Dakota | 3.5 |
| Florida | 3.4 |
| Virginia | 3.4 |
| Hawaii | 2.7 |



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

| | Employment in | | Percent Change | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Thousands | | Total Employment | | |
| | Oct05(p) | Sep05(r) | Oct04(b) | Oct05 | Oct05 |
| CAMPBELL COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 23.9 | 23.9 | 22.1 | 0.0 | 8.1 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 20.0 | 20.1 | 18.2 | -0.5 | 9.9 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.0 | -1.0 | 8.9 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 0.0 | 6.2 |
| Construction | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.1 | -4.0 | 14.3 |
| Manufacturing | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 20.0 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 14.1 | 14.0 | 13.1 | 0.7 | 7.6 |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 |
| Information | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 20.0 |
| Professional & Bus. Services | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 23.1 |
| Educational & Health Serv. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 5.9 |
| Other Services | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| SWEETWATER COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 23.4 | 23.3 | 21.6 | 0.4 | 8.3 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 19.0 | 19.0 | 17.3 | 0.0 | 9.8 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 8.4 | 8.3 | 7.1 | 1.2 | 18.3 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 14.0 |
| Construction | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 4.5 | 35.3 |
| Manufacturing | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 9.1 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 15.0 | 15.0 | 14.5 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 0.0 | 6.8 |
| Information | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Professional & Bus. Services | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 |
| Educational & Health Serv. | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | -4.2 | -4.2 |
| Other Services | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| TETON COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 16.3 | 18.5 | 16.2 | -11.9 | 0.6 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 14.0 | 16.2 | 14.1 | -13.6 | -0.7 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Nat. Res., Mining & Const. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 13.9 | 16.1 | 13.8 | -13.7 | 0.7 |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.3 | -8.0 | 0.0 |
| Information | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -33.3 |
| Financial Activities | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 12.5 |
| Professional & Bus. Services | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 6.2 |
| Educational & Health Serv. | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | -11.1 | 0.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 5.2 | 7.1 | 5.4 | -26.8 | -3.7 |
| Other Services | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 9.5 |

State Unemployment Rates October 2005 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.5 |
| Louisiana | 11.0 |
| Mississippi | 9.6 |
| South Carolina | 6.9 |
| Alaska | 6.2 |
| District of Columbia | 5.8 |
| Kentucky | 5.5 |
| Michigan | 5.4 |
| Ohio | 5.4 |
| Oregon | 5.4 |
| Georgia | 5.3 |
| Tennessee | 5.3 |
| New Mexico | 5.1 |
| North Carolina | 5.1 |
| Washington | 5.1 |
| California | 5.0 |
| Illinois | 5.0 |
| Indiana | 5.0 |
| Kansas | 5.0 |
| Texas | 5.0 |
| Arizona | 4.9 |
| Connecticut | 4.8 |
| Rhode Island | 4.8 |
| Maine | 4.7 |
| Colorado | 4.6 |
| New York | 4.6 |
| United States | 4.6 |
| Alabama | 4.5 |
| Missouri | 4.5 |
| West Virginia | 4.5 |
| Massachusetts | 4.3 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.3 |
| Utah | 4.3 |
| Arkansas | 4.2 |
| Oklahoma | 4.1 |
| Delaware | 4.0 |
| Iowa | 4.0 |
| Nevada | 3.9 |
| Maryland | 3.8 |
| Wisconsin | 3.8 |
| Montana | 3.7 |
| New Hampshire | 3.6 |
| New Jersey | 3.6 |
| Wyoming | 3.5 |
| Florida | 3.4 |
| South Dakota | 3.4 |
| Vermont | 3.3 |
| Nebraska | 3.2 |
| Virginia | 3.2 |
| Minnesota | 3.1 |
| Idaho | 3.0 |
| Hawaii | 2.7 |
| North Dakota | 2.5 |

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming was 85 in October, an increase of 3 rigs or 3.7% from a year earlier.

| | Oct | Sept | Oct | Percent Change | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| | 2005 | 2005 | 2004 | Month | Year |
| | (p) | (r) | (b) | | |
| Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force | 287,386 | 286,067 | 284,469 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Unemployed | 10,057 | 9,725 | 10,259 | 3.4 | -2.0 |
| Employed | 277,329 | 276,342 | 274,210 | 0.4 | 1.1 |
| Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted | 3.5%/4.1% | 3.4%/4.1% | 3.6%/4.2% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted | 4.6%/5.0% | 4.8%/5.1% | 5.1%/5.5% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Multiple Jobholders | 7,813,000 | 7,705,000 | 8,034,000 | 1.4 | -2.8 |
| As a percent of all workers | 5.5% | 5.4% | 5.7% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Discouraged Workers | 392,000 | 362,000 | 429,000 | 8.3 | -8.6 |
| U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons | 3,915,000 | 4,230,000 | 4,407,000 | -7.4 | -11.2 |
| Hours & Earnings for Production Workers | | | | | |
| Wyoming Mining | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$1,083.90 | \$1,102.82 | \$1,010.14 | -1.7 | 7.3 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 45.2 | 47.7 | 43.9 | -5.2 | 3.0 |
| U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$914.78 | \$907.62 | \$855.15 | 0.8 | 7.0 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 47.3 | 47.1 | 46.4 | 0.4 | 1.9 |
| Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$703.89 | \$680.30 | \$673.21 | 3.5 | 4.6 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.9 | 39.9 | 40.9 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$688.04 | \$682.24 | \$661.78 | 0.9 | 4.0 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 41.2 | 41.0 | 40.7 | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance | | | | | |
| Weeks Compensated | 6,376 | 5,909 | 8,701 | 7.9 | -26.7 |
| Benefits Paid | \$1,534,772 | \$1,433,282 | \$2,057,815 | 7.1 | -25.4 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | \$240.71 | \$242.56 | \$236.50 | -0.8 | 1.8 |
| State Insured Covered Jobs | 241,665 | 244,929 | 237,899 | -1.3 | 1.6 |
| Insured Unemployment Rate | 0.8% | 0.8% | 1.0% | N/A | N/A |
| Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items | | | | | |
| Food & Beverages | 199.2 | 198.8 | 190.9 | 0.2 | 4.3 |
| Housing | 192.5 | 191.8 | 188.4 | 0.4 | 2.2 |
| Apparel | 198.4 | 197.0 | 191.0 | 0.7 | 3.9 |
| Transportation | 122.7 | 120.5 | 124.1 | 1.8 | -1.1 |
| Medical Care | 184.0 | 186.5 | 166.4 | -1.3 | 10.6 |
| Recreation (Dec. 1997=100) | 326.2 | 324.6 | 313.3 | 0.5 | 4.1 |
| Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100) | 109.9 | 109.7 | 108.7 | 0.2 | 1.1 |
| Other Goods & Services | 115.1 | 115.3 | 112.5 | -0.2 | 2.3 |
| Other Goods & Services | 315.3 | 315.0 | 306.8 | 0.1 | 2.8 |
| Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities | 166.0 | 161.9 | 150.0 | 2.5 | 10.7 |
| Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized) | | | | | |
| Total Units | 337 | 317 | 233 | 6.3 | 44.6 |
| Valuation | \$55,601,000 | \$54,173,000 | \$33,367,000 | 2.6 | 66.6 |
| Single Family Homes | 250 | 269 | 194 | -7.1 | 28.9 |
| Valuation | \$49,942,000 | \$50,866,000 | \$30,503,000 | -1.8 | 63.7 |
| Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY | 85 | 85 | 82 | 0.0 | 3.7 |

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Roy Azar, Economist

Across Wyoming's 23 counties unemployment remained low in October. Platte County posted the highest unemployment rate (4.6%) followed by Fremont County (4.4%).

| REGION County | Labor Force | | | Employed | | | Unemployed | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Oct 2005 (p) | Sep 2005 (r) | Oct 2004 (b) | Oct 2005 (p) | Sep 2005 (r) | Oct 2004 (b) | Oct 2005 (p) | Sep 2005 (r) | Oct 2004 (b) | Oct 2005 (p) | Sep 2005 (r) | Oct 2004 (b) |
| NORTHWEST | 45,382 | 45,590 | 45,975 | 43,541 | 43,801 | 44,155 | 1,841 | 1,789 | 1,820 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Big Horn | 5,445 | 5,314 | 5,639 | 5,236 | 5,092 | 5,407 | 209 | 222 | 232 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Fremont | 18,369 | 18,241 | 18,547 | 17,555 | 17,443 | 17,736 | 814 | 798 | 811 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Hot Springs | 2,400 | 2,361 | 2,419 | 2,302 | 2,270 | 2,338 | 98 | 91 | 81 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| Park | 14,735 | 15,419 | 14,867 | 14,182 | 14,900 | 14,340 | 553 | 519 | 527 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Washakie | 4,433 | 4,255 | 4,503 | 4,266 | 4,096 | 4,334 | 167 | 159 | 169 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| NORTHEAST | 50,253 | 49,773 | 48,738 | 48,711 | 48,266 | 47,207 | 1,542 | 1,507 | 1,531 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Campbell | 23,886 | 23,568 | 22,473 | 23,248 | 22,933 | 21,831 | 638 | 635 | 642 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Crook | 3,341 | 3,330 | 3,382 | 3,238 | 3,228 | 3,264 | 103 | 102 | 118 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.5 |
| Johnson | 3,964 | 3,942 | 3,909 | 3,833 | 3,818 | 3,797 | 131 | 124 | 112 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Sheridan | 15,756 | 15,641 | 15,690 | 15,215 | 15,118 | 15,157 | 541 | 523 | 533 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Weston | 3,306 | 3,292 | 3,284 | 3,177 | 3,169 | 3,158 | 129 | 123 | 126 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| SOUTHWEST | 61,374 | 62,571 | 59,716 | 59,448 | 60,759 | 57,781 | 1,926 | 1,812 | 1,935 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| Lincoln | 8,226 | 8,349 | 8,149 | 7,927 | 8,061 | 7,872 | 299 | 288 | 277 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Sublette | 4,934 | 4,988 | 4,763 | 4,840 | 4,895 | 4,675 | 94 | 93 | 88 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Sweetwater | 23,507 | 23,188 | 22,256 | 22,787 | 22,493 | 21,541 | 720 | 695 | 715 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Teton | 13,623 | 14,970 | 13,629 | 13,179 | 14,605 | 13,170 | 444 | 365 | 459 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 3.4 |
| Uinta | 11,084 | 11,076 | 10,919 | 10,715 | 10,705 | 10,523 | 369 | 371 | 396 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| SOUTHEAST | 74,260 | 72,936 | 75,032 | 71,453 | 70,184 | 72,008 | 2,807 | 2,752 | 3,024 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.0 |
| Albany | 20,532 | 19,888 | 20,564 | 19,952 | 19,336 | 19,990 | 580 | 552 | 574 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Goshen | 6,070 | 5,723 | 6,262 | 5,821 | 5,467 | 6,025 | 249 | 256 | 237 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 3.8 |
| Laramie | 42,228 | 41,945 | 42,723 | 40,490 | 40,240 | 40,737 | 1,738 | 1,705 | 1,986 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.6 |
| Niobrara | 1,197 | 1,162 | 1,211 | 1,153 | 1,126 | 1,170 | 44 | 36 | 41 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Platte | 4,233 | 4,218 | 4,272 | 4,037 | 4,015 | 4,086 | 196 | 203 | 186 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| CENTRAL | 56,112 | 55,201 | 55,006 | 54,173 | 53,332 | 53,057 | 1,939 | 1,869 | 1,949 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Carbon | 8,032 | 8,053 | 7,953 | 7,725 | 7,759 | 7,635 | 307 | 294 | 318 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| Converse | 6,955 | 6,846 | 6,716 | 6,710 | 6,602 | 6,470 | 245 | 244 | 246 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Natrona | 41,125 | 40,302 | 40,337 | 39,738 | 38,971 | 38,952 | 1,387 | 1,331 | 1,385 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| STATEWIDE | 287,386 | 286,067 | 284,469 | 277,329 | 276,342 | 274,210 | 10,057 | 9,725 | 10,259 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| U.S. | | | | | | | | | | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5.1 |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.5 |

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 06/05. Run Date 11/05.

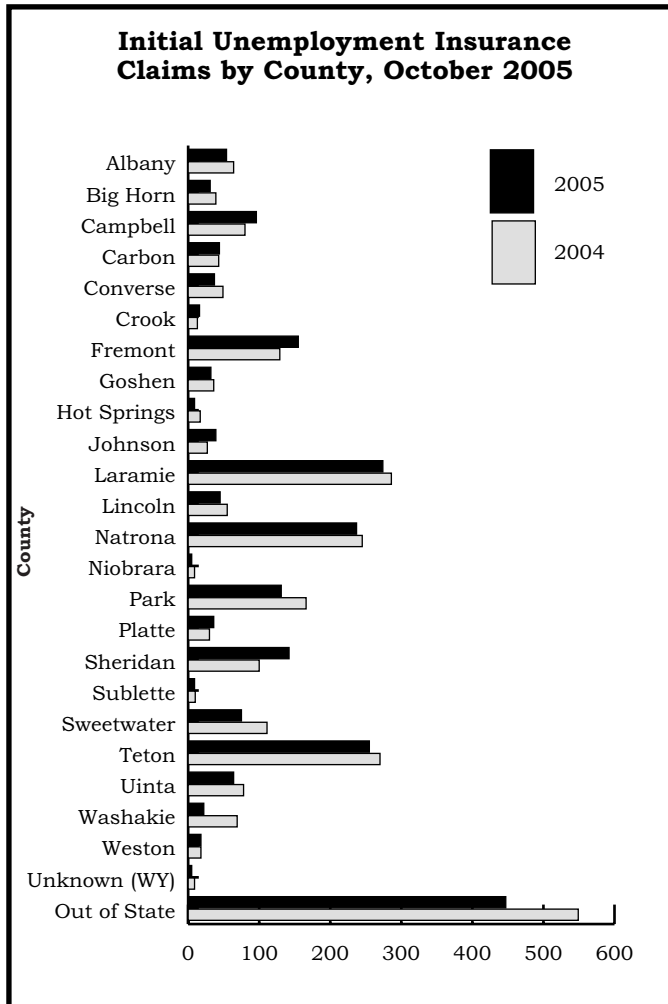
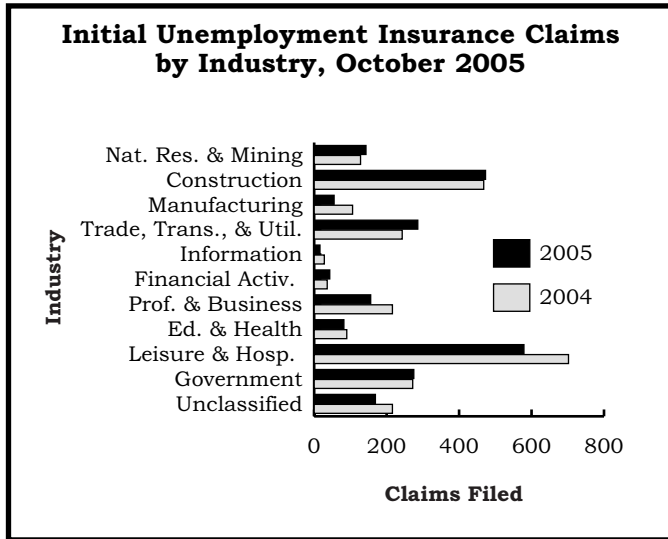
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Initial claims more than doubled compared to September's level. Over-the-month increases in Construction, Retail Trade, and Leisure & Hospitality accounted for the majority of the change.



| WYOMING STATEWIDE | Claims Filed | | Percent Change | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Oct05 | Sep05 | Oct04 | Oct05 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 2,277 | 1,098 | 2,500 | 107.4 -8.9 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 671 | 353 | 702 | 90.1 -4.4 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 143 | 85 | 128 | 68.2 11.7 |
| Mining | 133 | 77 | 103 | 72.7 29.1 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 13 | 10 | 10 | 30.0 30.0 |
| Construction | 473 | 229 | 468 | 106.6 1.1 |
| Manufacturing | 55 | 39 | 106 | 41.0 -48.1 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 1,197 | 562 | 1,345 | 113.0 -11.0 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 286 | 153 | 243 | 86.9 17.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 54 | 24 | 37 | 125.0 45.9 |
| Retail Trade | 155 | 101 | 140 | 53.5 10.7 |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities | 77 | 28 | 66 | 175.0 16.7 |
| Information | 16 | 13 | 28 | 23.1 -42.9 |
| Financial Activities | 43 | 30 | 36 | 43.3 19.4 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 156 | 77 | 216 | 102.6 -27.8 |
| Educational & Health Services | 82 | 102 | 90 | -19.6 -8.9 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 579 | 163 | 702 | 255.2 -17.5 |
| Other Services | 35 | 24 | 30 | 45.8 16.7 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 275 | 99 | 272 | 177.8 1.1 |
| Federal Government | 174 | 31 | 174 | 461.3 0.0 |
| State Government | 30 | 21 | 25 | 42.9 20.0 |
| Local Government | 71 | 47 | 73 | 51.1 -2.7 |
| Local Education | 15 | 10 | 17 | 50.0 -11.8 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 134 | 84 | 181 | 59.5 -26.0 |

LARAMIE COUNTY

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 269 | 180 | 284 | 49.4 -5.3 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 106 | 56 | 81 | 89.3 30.9 |
| Construction | 91 | 43 | 67 | 111.6 35.8 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 122 | 99 | 159 | 23.2 -23.3 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 36 | 24 | 38 | 50.0 -5.3 |
| Financial Activities | 9 | 6 | 15 | 50.0 -40.0 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 33 | 16 | 54 | 106.3 -38.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 18 | 30 | 16 | -40.0 12.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 21 | 16 | 23 | 31.3 -8.7 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 26 | 15 | 31 | 73.3 -16.1 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 15 | 10 | 13 | 50.0 15.4 |

NATRONA COUNTY

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 235 | 150 | 242 | 56.7 -2.9 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 88 | 56 | 93 | 57.1 -5.4 |
| Construction | 70 | 39 | 66 | 79.5 6.1 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 124 | 84 | 122 | 47.6 1.6 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 43 | 25 | 47 | 72.0 -8.5 |
| Financial Activities | 4 | 9 | 5 | -55.6 -20.0 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 29 | 11 | 32 | 163.6 -9.4 |
| Educational & Health Services | 16 | 17 | 15 | -5.9 6.7 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 19 | 16 | 18 | 18.8 5.6 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 13 | 6 | 12 | 116.7 8.3 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 10 | 4 | 15 | 150.0 -33.3 |

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Continued claims declined by 22.6% compared to last October. The percentage drop in over the year claims was the largest since 1997 for the month of October.

| WYOMING STATEWIDE | Percent Change | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Weeks Claimed | | Weeks Claimed | | |
| | Oct05 | Sep05 | Oct04 | Oct05 | Oct05 |
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 8,077 | 7,045 | 10,437 | 14.6 | -22.6 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 2,765 | 2,226 | 3,476 | 24.2 | -20.5 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 2,229 | 2,009 | 2,752 | 11.0 | -19.0 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 594 | 612 | 626 | -2.9 | -5.1 |
| Mining | 553 | 581 | 479 | -4.8 | 15.4 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 55 | 43 | 48 | 27.9 | 14.6 |
| Construction | 1,315 | 1,059 | 1,801 | 24.2 | -27.0 |
| Manufacturing | 320 | 338 | 325 | -5.3 | -1.5 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 4,243 | 3,599 | 5,728 | 17.9 | -25.9 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 1,210 | 1,095 | 1,408 | 10.5 | -14.1 |
| Wholesale Trade | 170 | 134 | 259 | 26.9 | -34.4 |
| Retail Trade | 766 | 760 | 813 | 0.8 | -5.8 |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities | 274 | 201 | 336 | 36.3 | -18.5 |
| Information | 105 | 117 | 438 | -10.3 | -76.0 |
| Financial Activities | 270 | 271 | 304 | -0.4 | -11.2 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 652 | 606 | 1,253 | 7.6 | -48.0 |
| Educational & Health Serv. | 688 | 665 | 678 | 3.5 | 1.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1,085 | 640 | 1,410 | 69.5 | -23.0 |
| Other Services | 233 | 205 | 237 | 13.7 | -1.7 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 1,051 | 952 | 1,079 | 10.4 | -2.6 |
| Federal Government | 309 | 227 | 394 | 36.1 | -21.6 |
| State Government | 191 | 170 | 186 | 12.4 | 2.7 |
| Local Government | 551 | 555 | 499 | -0.7 | 10.4 |
| Local Education | 179 | 205 | 132 | -12.7 | 35.6 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 554 | 485 | 878 | 14.2 | -36.9 |

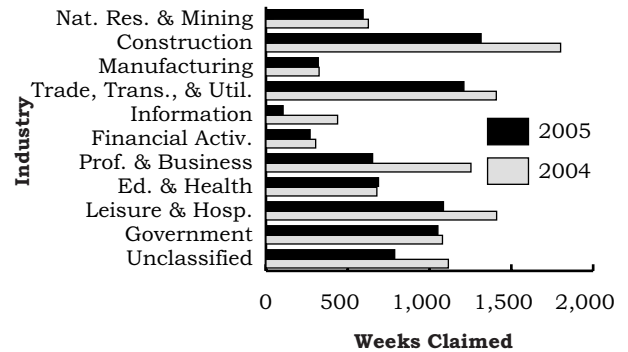
LARAMIE COUNTY

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 1,301 | 1,239 | 2,197 | 5.0 | -40.8 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 434 | 392 | 691 | 10.7 | -37.2 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 290 | 220 | 364 | 31.8 | -20.3 |
| Construction | 238 | 183 | 278 | 30.1 | -14.4 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 778 | 768 | 1,525 | 1.3 | -49.0 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 201 | 167 | 345 | 20.4 | -41.7 |
| Financial Activities | 70 | 82 | 106 | -14.6 | -34.0 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 164 | 160 | 528 | 2.5 | -68.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 169 | 166 | 132 | 1.8 | 28.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 102 | 125 | 93 | -18.4 | 9.7 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 185 | 212 | 246 | -12.7 | -24.8 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 48 | 39 | 62 | 23.1 | -22.6 |

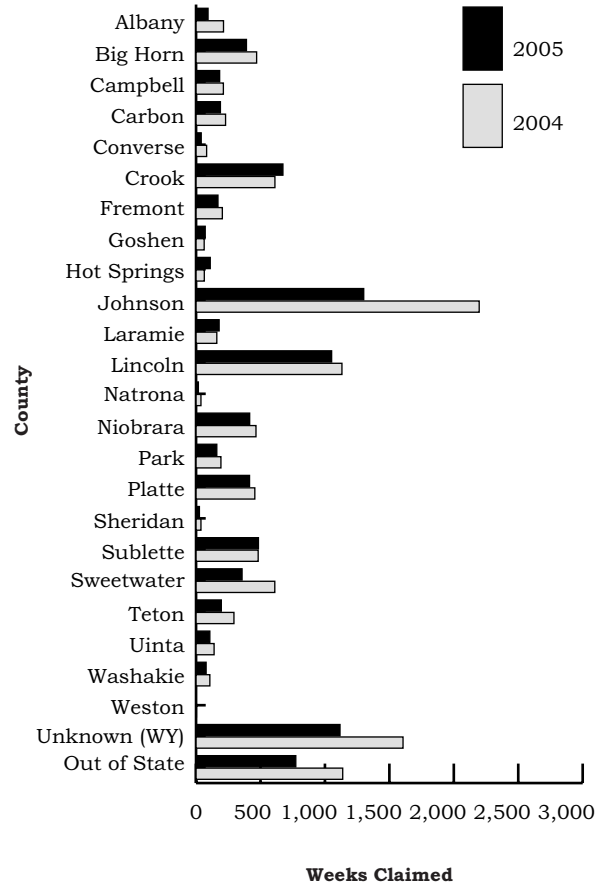
NATRONA COUNTY

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 1,052 | 959 | 1,132 | 9.7 | -7.1 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 359 | 315 | 373 | 14.0 | -3.8 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 308 | 290 | 337 | 6.2 | -8.6 |
| Construction | 183 | 113 | 238 | 61.9 | -23.1 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 645 | 588 | 701 | 9.7 | -8.0 |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 228 | 193 | 184 | 18.1 | 23.9 |
| Financial Activities | 58 | 53 | 57 | 9.4 | 1.8 |
| Professional & Business Serv. | 98 | 112 | 222 | -12.5 | -55.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 87 | 86 | 106 | 1.2 | -17.9 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 97 | 88 | 86 | 10.2 | 12.8 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 73 | 60 | 57 | 21.7 | 28.1 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 26 | 21 | 37 | 23.8 | -29.7 |

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, October 2005



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, October 2005



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

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