

TRENDS

Small Businesses Play a Big Role in Wyoming's Economy

by: Sherry Wen, Principal Economist

More than half (51.5%) of all businesses in Wyoming in 2011 had just one to three employees. Some of these micro-sized firms provided higher annual wages on average in their industries than larger firms. Larger Wyoming employers (those with 50 or more employees) made up just 4.1% of all businesses but contributed 57.0% of the state's jobs and 63.4% of Wyoming's total wages in 2011.

Wyoming is the least populated state in the U.S. (U.S. Census Records), so it seems logical that most of the state's businesses are small in size — but how small? What proportion of these small businesses make up the state's economy? This article provides insight on Wyoming employers by firm size, including their impact on the state's jobs and wages. Also discussed in this article are the potential impacts on workers in terms of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and tax contributions to the UI trust fund.

This research uses data collected through the Wyoming Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). In Wyoming, UI covered employment represents 95.3% of the state's total wage

and salary employment (Bullard, 2012). The firm sizes defined in this article are specifically based on the statistical characteristics of Wyoming employers, since there are many different definitions internationally and within the U.S. (U.S. Small Business Administration, 2013). The firm sizes used in this article are presented in Table 1 (see page 3).

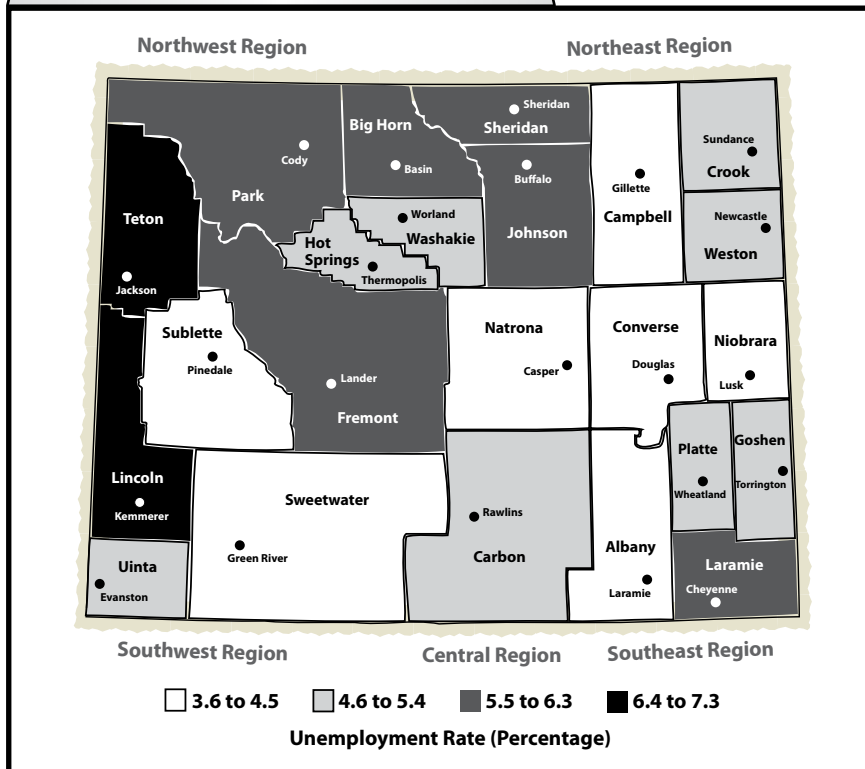
According to the QCEW, there were 19,885 employers in Wyoming in 2011. One employer may have multiple work sites or branches, such as chain stores. Wyoming's employers provided an annual average of 274,482 jobs and \$11.9 billion in wages to the state's economy. They also provided \$128.8

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Baker Hughes North American rotary rig count for Wyoming dropped from 54 in December 2011 to 49 in December 2012, a decrease of 9.3%. ... [page 12](#)
- The number of initial unemployment insurance claims increased substantially from December 2011 to December 2012 in oil & gas extraction (187.5%) and wholesale trade (123.3%). ... [page 14](#)

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, December 2012 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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million in UI tax revenues in 2011.

Distribution of Employers by Firm Size

More than half (51.5%) of Wyoming's 19,885 employers in 2011 were micro-sized firms, with 1-3 employees (see Figure 1 and Table 2, page 4). Another 24.0% were small-sized firms with 4-8 employees and 20.5% were medium-sized firms with 9-49 employees. Only 4.1% of all Wyoming employers were mid-large (50-100 employees)

and large (more than 100) in size. This distribution shows that the majority (75.5%) of Wyoming employers were micro-sized or small-sized and provided eight or fewer jobs.

In industries such as financial activities and professional & business services, more than two-thirds of firms were micro-sized. Except for leisure & hospitality and government, micro-sized firms also accounted for the largest proportion in all other industries.

Employment by Firm Size

Of the 274,482 jobs in Wyoming in 2011, more than half (57.0%, or 156,324) were at mid-large and large firms (see Table 2 and Figure 2, page 6), even though these firms only accounted for 4.1% of all firms in Wyoming. An additional 27.2% (74,710 jobs) were found in medium-sized firms with 9-49 employees. Only 15.8 percent (43,448 jobs) were provided by micro-sized and small-sized firms. The distribution of jobs is the opposite of the distribution of employers.

The distribution of jobs and employers differs by industry. For example, 60.9% of all jobs in natural resources & mining were provided by large-sized firms, while medium-sized firms provided the most jobs in construction (41.4%), wholesale trade (44.6%), professional & business services (41.5%), and leisure & hospitality (46.4%).

Table 1: Wyoming Employers by Firm Size in 2011

Group	Number of Employees per Firm	Wyoming Firms	
		N	%
Micro Sized	1-3	10,237	51.5%
Small Sized	4-8	4,764	24.0%
Medium Sized	9-49	4,069	20.5%
Mid-Large	50-100	421	2.1%
Large Sized	More than 100	394	2.0%
Total		19,885	100.0%

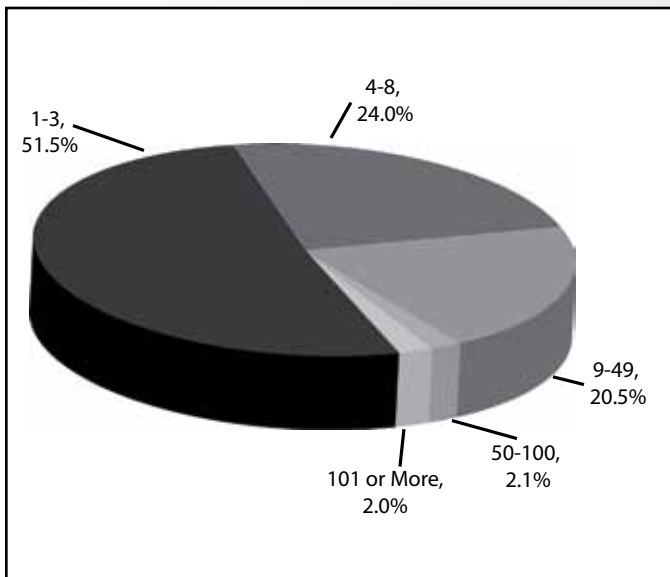


Figure 1: Distribution of Unemployment Insurance Covered Employers by Firm Size in Wyoming, 2011

Wages and UI Benefits for Unemployed Workers

Figure 2 shows that in general, average

(Text continued on page 6)

Table 2: Wyoming 2011's UI Covered Employers, Employment, Wages, and Unemployment Insurance Tax by Industry and Firm Size

Industry	Firm Size	Number of Employers		Average Annual Employment		Total Annual Wages		Average Annual Wage	Annual Taxable Wages		Annual Unemployment Insurance Contributions	
		N	%	N	%	\$	%	\$	\$	%	\$	%
Natural Resources & Mining	1-3	590	44.0%	1,038	3.5%	44,690,616	2.0%	43,055	24,271,740	3.2%	643,443	2.6%
	4-8	352	26.2%	1,971	6.6%	81,390,996	3.6%	41,294	44,819,398	5.8%	1,351,996	5.4%
	9-49	302	22.5%	5,319	17.9%	342,250,342	15.2%	64,345	141,227,617	18.3%	4,983,886	19.8%
	50-100	46	3.4%	3,266	11.0%	244,461,690	10.8%	74,850	87,486,567	11.4%	3,282,449	13.0%
	>= 101	51	3.8%	18,046	60.9%	1,545,243,861	68.4%	85,628	471,950,644	61.3%	14,949,355	59.3%
	Total:	1,341	100.0%	29,640	100.0%	2,258,037,505	100.0%	76,182	769,755,966	100.0%	25,211,129	100.0%
Construction	1-3	1,686	57.2%	2,921	13.8%	91,649,796	9.0%	31,376	62,936,248	10.9%	2,588,203	8.9%
	4-8	715	24.3%	3,872	18.3%	141,475,944	14.0%	36,538	91,549,625	15.8%	3,854,981	13.2%
	9-49	495	16.8%	8,761	41.4%	426,951,428	42.1%	48,733	238,277,076	41.1%	11,755,453	40.2%
	50-100	34	1.2%	2,342	11.1%	153,030,904	15.1%	65,342	84,787,064	14.6%	4,689,728	16.1%
	>= 101	18	0.6%	3,246	15.4%	200,509,453	19.8%	61,771	102,186,009	17.6%	6,321,254	21.6%
	Total:	2,948	100.0%	21,142	100.0%	1,013,617,525	100.0%	47,943	579,736,022	100.0%	29,209,619	100.0%
Manufacturing	1-3	229	41.3%	423	4.3%	11,689,617	2.2%	27,635	7,857,743	3.5%	183,751	2.6%
	4-8	156	28.1%	871	8.9%	23,832,262	4.5%	27,362	16,157,117	7.2%	463,667	6.6%
	9-49	130	23.4%	2,503	25.4%	105,868,010	19.8%	42,296	55,696,295	24.9%	2,058,196	29.1%
	50-100	20	3.6%	1,393	14.2%	75,745,202	14.1%	54,376	34,923,702	15.6%	1,172,045	16.6%
	>= 101	20	3.6%	4,649	47.3%	318,360,345	59.5%	68,479	109,004,073	48.7%	3,184,107	45.1%
	Total:	555	100.0%	9,839	100.0%	535,495,436	100.0%	54,426	223,638,930	100.0%	7,061,766	100.0%
Wholesale Trade	1-3	529	54.0%	836	9.6%	55,147,832	11.3%	65,966	17,893,459	9.0%	348,464	7.0%
	4-8	207	21.1%	1,135	13.0%	59,338,228	12.2%	52,280	25,047,223	12.6%	550,725	11.1%
	9-49	217	22.2%	3,890	44.6%	203,214,249	41.6%	52,240	87,169,432	44.0%	2,373,036	47.7%
	50-100	18	1.8%	1,139	13.1%	55,954,775	11.5%	49,126	25,868,600	13.1%	661,353	13.3%
	>= 101	8	0.8%	1,720	19.7%	114,506,149	23.5%	66,573	42,049,378	21.2%	1,038,890	20.9%
	Total:	979	100.0%	8,720	100.0%	488,161,233	100.0%	55,982	198,028,092	100.0%	4,972,468	100.0%
Retail Trade	1-3	766	39.8%	1,421	4.7%	29,090,335	3.7%	20,472	22,064,385	4.1%	491,080	4.2%
	4-8	582	30.2%	3,244	10.8%	74,032,336	9.4%	22,821	51,271,340	9.6%	1,007,858	8.7%
	9-49	500	26.0%	9,206	30.7%	260,422,233	33.0%	28,288	163,515,943	30.6%	3,615,811	31.2%
	50-100	47	2.4%	3,202	10.7%	99,617,907	12.6%	31,111	58,882,823	11.0%	1,354,499	11.7%
	>= 101	31	1.6%	12,947	43.1%	327,056,298	41.4%	25,261	237,984,583	44.6%	5,106,685	44.1%
	Total:	1,926	100.0%	30,020	100.0%	790,219,109	100.0%	26,323	533,719,074	100.0%	11,575,933	100.0%
Transportation & Utilities	1-3	471	54.1%	792	7.0%	29,980,044	4.9%	37,854	16,496,328	6.2%	422,666	5.9%
	4-8	176	20.2%	985	8.8%	41,813,702	6.8%	42,450	22,911,237	8.7%	681,340	9.5%
	9-49	188	21.6%	3,672	32.7%	191,624,617	31.0%	52,185	90,375,610	34.2%	2,929,837	41.0%
	50-100	20	2.3%	1,407	12.5%	81,108,807	13.1%	57,647	34,724,787	13.1%	923,905	12.9%
	>= 101	16	1.8%	4,389	39.0%	273,059,752	44.2%	62,215	99,721,401	37.7%	2,180,615	30.5%
	Total:	871	100.0%	11,245	100.0%	617,586,922	100.0%	54,921	264,229,363	100.0%	7,138,363	100.0%
Information	1-3	114	45.6%	175	4.6%	10,598,736	6.9%	60,564	3,360,167	4.4%	69,287	4.0%
	4-8	55	22.0%	307	8.0%	9,000,170	5.9%	29,317	5,182,278	6.9%	108,418	6.2%
	9-49	64	25.6%	1,276	33.4%	35,207,086	22.9%	27,592	20,765,029	27.5%	409,709	23.5%
	50-100	11	4.4%	687	18.0%	28,061,316	18.3%	40,846	14,620,457	19.3%	343,425	19.7%
	>= 101	6	2.4%	1,374	36.0%	70,801,282	46.1%	51,529	31,710,298	41.9%	810,000	46.5%
	Total:	250	100.0%	3,819	100.0%	153,668,590	100.0%	40,238	75,638,229	100.0%	1,740,839	100.0%

Table 2: Wyoming 2011's UI Covered Employers, Employment, Wages, and Unemployment Insurance Tax by Industry and Firm Size

Industry	Firm Size	Number of Employers		Average Annual Employment		Total Annual Wages		Average Annual Wage	Annual Taxable Wages		Annual Unemployment Insurance Contributions	
		N	N	%	N	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Financial Activities	1-3	1,029	68.5%	1,642	15.6%	64,293,737	13.2%	39,156	29,371,518	13.0%	478,769	9.9%
	4-8	262	17.4%	1,412	13.4%	54,845,599	11.3%	38,842	27,618,408	12.2%	537,454	11.1%
	9-49	169	11.3%	3,115	29.6%	150,203,775	30.9%	48,220	68,222,094	30.1%	1,582,563	32.8%
	50-100	30	2.0%	1,913	18.2%	108,226,328	22.3%	56,574	46,163,618	20.4%	1,196,709	24.8%
	>= 101	12	0.8%	2,447	23.2%	108,628,787	22.3%	44,393	55,050,477	24.3%	1,025,759	21.3%
	Total:	1,502	100.0%	10,529	100.0%	486,198,226	100.0%	46,177	226,426,115	100.0%	4,821,254	100.0%
Professional & Business Services	1-3	2,300	67.9%	3,540	20.3%	195,354,331	24.9%	55,185	71,154,266	19.0%	1,480,619	14.3%
	4-8	616	18.2%	3,333	19.1%	136,311,839	17.4%	40,898	68,776,688	18.4%	1,562,470	15.1%
	9-49	437	12.9%	7,239	41.5%	316,513,490	40.4%	43,723	154,292,966	41.3%	4,485,950	43.3%
	50-100	26	0.8%	1,623	9.3%	69,822,010	8.9%	43,020	38,188,133	10.2%	1,224,163	11.8%
	>= 101	10	0.3%	1,723	9.9%	65,752,238	8.4%	38,161	41,347,220	11.1%	1,608,478	15.5%
	Total:	3,389	100.0%	17,458	100.0%	783,753,908	100.0%	44,894	373,759,273	100.0%	10,361,680	100.0%
Educational & Health Services	1-3	760	42.7%	1,286	5.1%	70,808,275	7.2%	55,061	23,724,567	6.5%	385,207	5.2%
	4-8	484	27.2%	2,709	10.7%	97,529,314	9.9%	36,002	47,880,786	13.2%	750,257	10.2%
	9-49	443	24.9%	8,093	32.0%	305,699,553	31.1%	37,773	136,102,250	37.6%	2,618,454	35.7%
	50-100	49	2.8%	3,313	13.1%	129,395,921	13.2%	39,057	47,701,370	13.2%	1,172,541	16.0%
	>= 101	43	2.4%	9,927	39.2%	379,235,401	38.6%	38,202	106,851,802	29.5%	2,414,280	32.9%
	Total:	1,779	100.0%	25,328	100.0%	982,668,464	100.0%	38,798	362,260,775	100.0%	7,340,739	100.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1-3	617	29.9%	1,115	3.4%	14,668,542	2.7%	13,156	13,119,518	2.9%	316,002	2.4%
	4-8	567	27.4%	3,274	10.0%	41,182,035	7.5%	12,579	37,370,341	8.2%	947,083	7.3%
	9-49	771	37.3%	15,161	46.4%	235,539,336	42.7%	15,536	196,271,705	43.0%	4,870,546	37.5%
	50-100	70	3.4%	4,882	14.9%	91,873,255	16.7%	18,819	75,277,263	16.5%	2,116,363	16.3%
	>= 101	42	2.0%	8,261	25.3%	168,111,633	30.5%	20,350	134,879,262	29.5%	4,740,412	36.5%
	Total:	2,067	100.0%	32,693	100.0%	551,374,801	100.0%	16,865	456,918,089	100.0%	12,990,406	100.0%
Other Services	1-3	1,006	60.7%	1,646	20.1%	43,837,703	16.0%	26,633	27,992,009	18.5%	496,434	12.5%
	4-8	450	27.2%	2,448	29.8%	72,888,006	26.6%	29,775	43,362,714	28.6%	896,499	22.6%
	9-49	189	11.4%	2,854	34.8%	105,866,701	38.6%	37,094	56,490,036	37.3%	1,626,209	41.1%
	50-100	6	0.4%	417	5.1%	10,244,206	3.7%	24,566	5,727,569	3.8%	125,829	3.2%
	>= 101	6	0.4%	844	10.3%	41,592,208	15.2%	49,280	17,957,531	11.9%	814,410	20.6%
	Total:	1,657	100.0%	8,209	100.0%	274,428,824	100.0%	33,430	151,529,859	100.0%	3,959,381	100.0%
Government	1-3	140	22.5%	268	0.4%	7,939,378	0.3%	29,625	2,759,734	3.2%	48,414	2.0%
	4-8	142	22.9%	784	1.2%	27,872,496	0.9%	35,552	6,088,181	7.0%	107,585	4.4%
	9-49	164	26.4%	3,621	5.5%	139,120,881	4.7%	38,421	19,513,370	22.6%	409,266	16.9%
	50-100	44	7.1%	3,151	4.8%	125,605,823	4.2%	39,862	5,123,835	5.9%	125,069	5.2%
	>= 101	131	21.1%	58,016	88.1%	2,657,959,540	89.8%	45,814	52,922,502	61.2%	1,734,283	71.5%
	Total:	621	100.0%	65,840	100.0%	2,958,498,118	100.0%	44,935	86,407,622	100.0%	2,424,617	100.0%
Total, All Industries	1-3	10,237	51.5%	17,103	6.2%	669,748,942	5.6%	\$39,160	323,001,682	7.5%	7,952,339	6.2%
	4-8	4,764	24.0%	26,345	9.6%	861,512,927	7.2%	\$32,701	488,035,336	11.3%	12,820,333	10.0%
	9-49	4,069	20.5%	74,710	27.2%	2,818,481,701	23.7%	\$37,726	1,427,919,423	33.2%	43,718,916	33.9%
	50-100	421	2.1%	28,735	10.5%	1,273,148,144	10.7%	\$44,307	559,475,788	13.0%	18,388,078	14.3%
	>= 101	394	2.0%	127,589	46.5%	6,270,816,947	52.7%	\$49,149	1,503,615,180	35.0%	45,928,528	35.7%
	Total:	19,885	100.0%	274,482	100.0%	11,893,708,661	100.0%	43,331	4,302,047,409	100.0%	128,808,194	100.0%

(Text continued from page 3)

annual wages increased with the size of the firm, from \$32,701 for small-sized firms to \$49,149 for large firms. The only exception was the average annual wage for micro-sized firms (\$39,160), which was higher than the average annual wage for small-sized (\$32,701) and medium-sized (\$37,726) firms. However, the wage levels by firm size varied substantially across different industries. In some industries, such as information, professional & business services, and educational & health services, the micro-sized firms actually paid higher wages than any other sized firms (see Table 2). In other industries, such as construction and retail trade, the micro-sized firms paid the lowest wages.

higher UI benefits when employees lose jobs. By law, the weekly UI benefit that an individual can receive is equal to 4% of his or her highest quarterly wage during the base period, and the maximum benefit the individual could receive for a year is 30% of his or her base period wage or 26 times his or her weekly benefit, whichever is less (Wen, 2005).

Total Wages and UI Tax

Wyoming's large firms provided more than half of the state's total wages in 2011 (52.7%, or \$6.3 billion), while medium-sized firms provided nearly a quarter (23.7%, or \$2.8 billion). Micro-sized firms

Higher wages are directly linked with

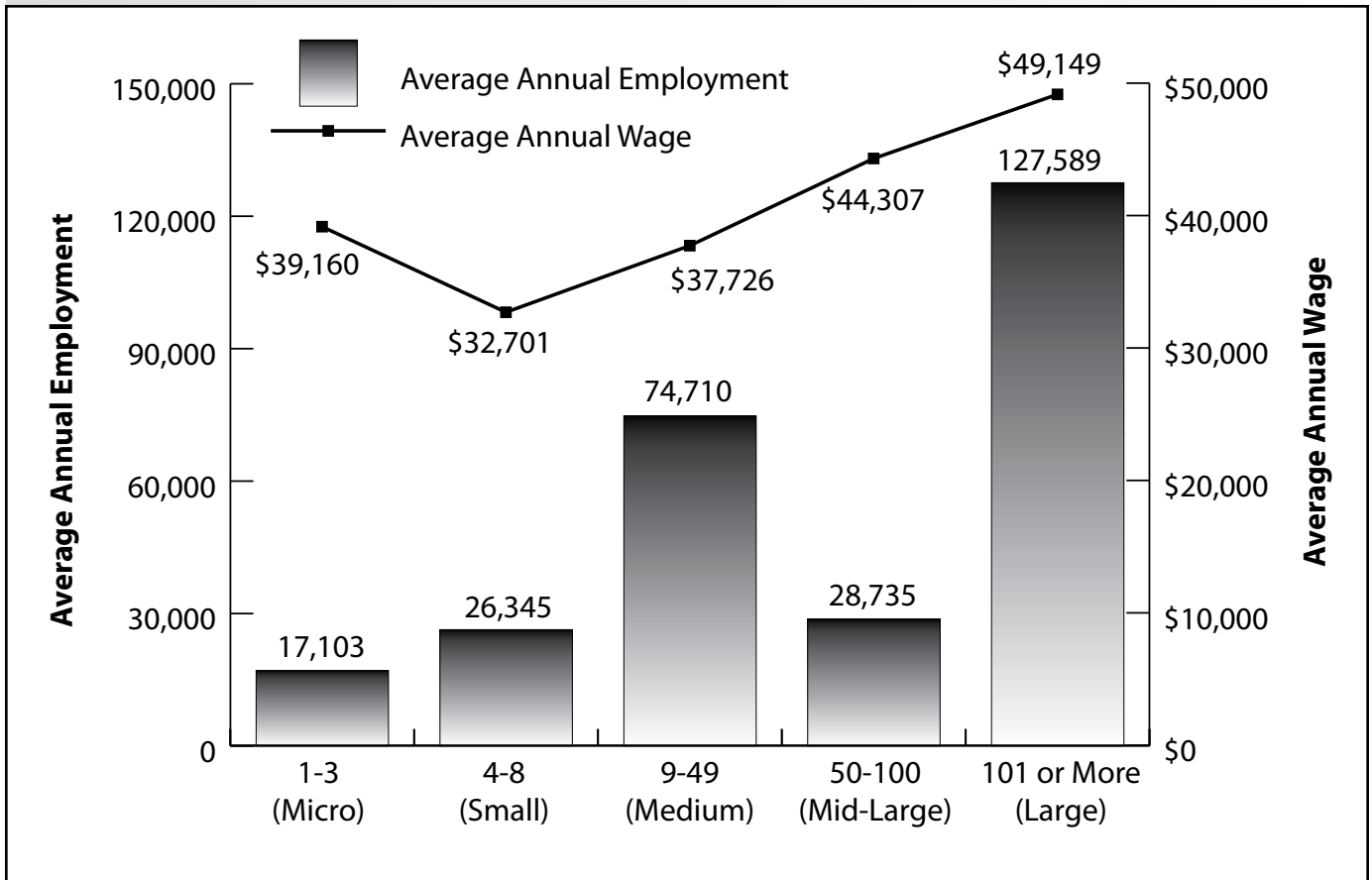


Figure 2: Distribution of Annual Average Employment and Wages by Firm Size in Wyoming, 2011

were responsible for just 5.6% (\$0.7 billion) of Wyoming’s total wages in 2011.

Wage distribution in each industry was very similar to its job distribution. Large firms in natural resources & mining provided most of the wages (68.4%) in that industry. Medium-sized firms paid the largest share of industry wages in construction (42.1%), wholesale trade (41.6%), professional & business services (40.4%), and leisure & hospitality (42.7%).

Figure 3 shows that large firms contributed more than one-third (35.7%) of Wyoming’s \$128.8 million UI tax revenue in 2011. An additional one-third (33.9%)

came from medium-sized firms. Small-sized and middle-large firms accounted for 10.0% and 14.3%, respectively, while micro-sized firms contributed 6.2%.

The amount of UI tax collected is directly affected by employment, wages, UI tax rates, and the frequency of turnover. Any one of these factors may affect the amount of UI tax collected by each firm size. For example, this research shows that large firms in Wyoming provided considerably more jobs (127,589) and higher annual wages on average (\$49,149) than medium-sized firms (74,710 jobs and \$37,726 average annual wage). However, these two groups provided a similar share

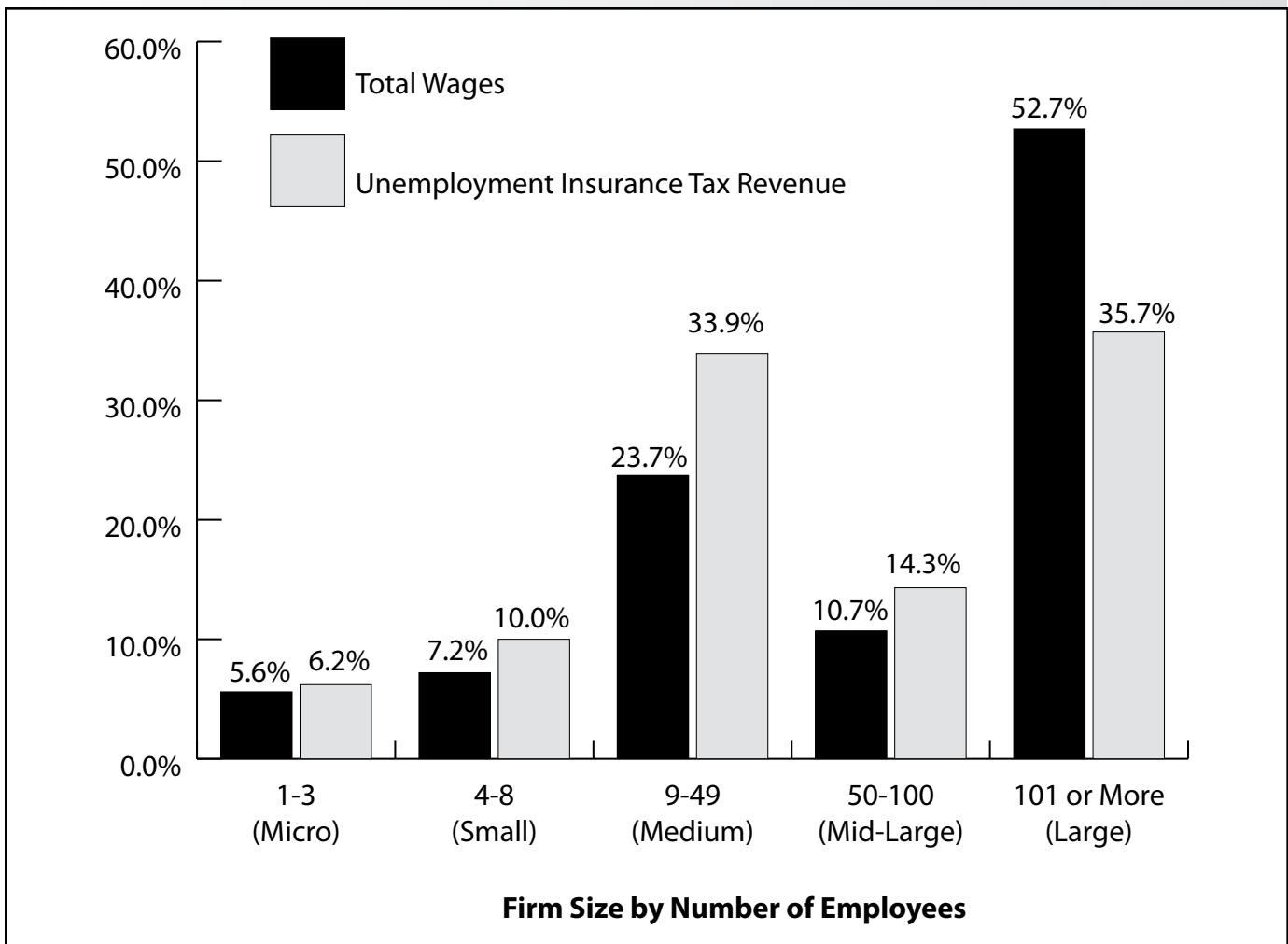


Figure 3: Distribution of Total Wages and Unemployment Insurance Tax Revenue by Firm Size in Wyoming, 2011

of the UI tax revenue. One explanation is that medium-sized firms may not be as stable as large firms. As a result, they may have had more layoff events, which would lead to a higher UI tax rate and more taxes. Medium-sized firms were responsible for the largest share of UI tax in their respective industries, such as those in construction (40.2%), wholesale trade (47.7%), and other services (41.1%).

Summary

The majority of Wyoming employers (75.5%) in 2011 were micro-sized and small-sized firms. In some industries, micro-sized firms actually paid the highest average annual wages. Only a small percentage (4.1%) of Wyoming employers were mid-large and large firms. However, these mid-large and large firms contributed the most jobs (57.0%) and wages (63.4%) to the state's economy.

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Occupation Spotlight <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm>

Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services

Statewide Employment: 1,330; Mean Annual Wage: \$37,383

Northwest Region

Employment: 240
Mean Annual
Wage: \$36,349

Southwest Region

Employment: 360
Mean Annual
Wage: \$41,343



Northeast Region

Employment: 230
Mean Annual
Wage: \$36,131

Central-Southeast Region

Employment: 120
Mean Annual
Wage: \$34,165

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics.

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.9% in December 2012

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has reported that the state's seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate decreased from 5.1% in November to 4.9% in December (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming unemployment was down from its year-ago level of 5.6% and significantly lower than the current U.S. rate of 7.8%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents decreased by 284 individuals (-0.1%) from November to December. The number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming has fallen while employment has not grown, causing the state's labor force to decline. From December 2011 to December 2012, Wyoming's labor force decreased by 2,455 individuals (-0.8%).

Most county unemployment rates changed very little from November to December. Teton County's unemployment rate followed its normal seasonal pattern and fell from 9.7% to 7.3% as the winter tourist season started.

The highest unemployment rates were found in the western and central parts of the state. Teton County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.3%) followed by Lincoln (7.0%), Fremont (6.2%), and Park (5.9%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Sublette (3.6%), Converse (3.7%), and Niobrara (3.8%) counties.

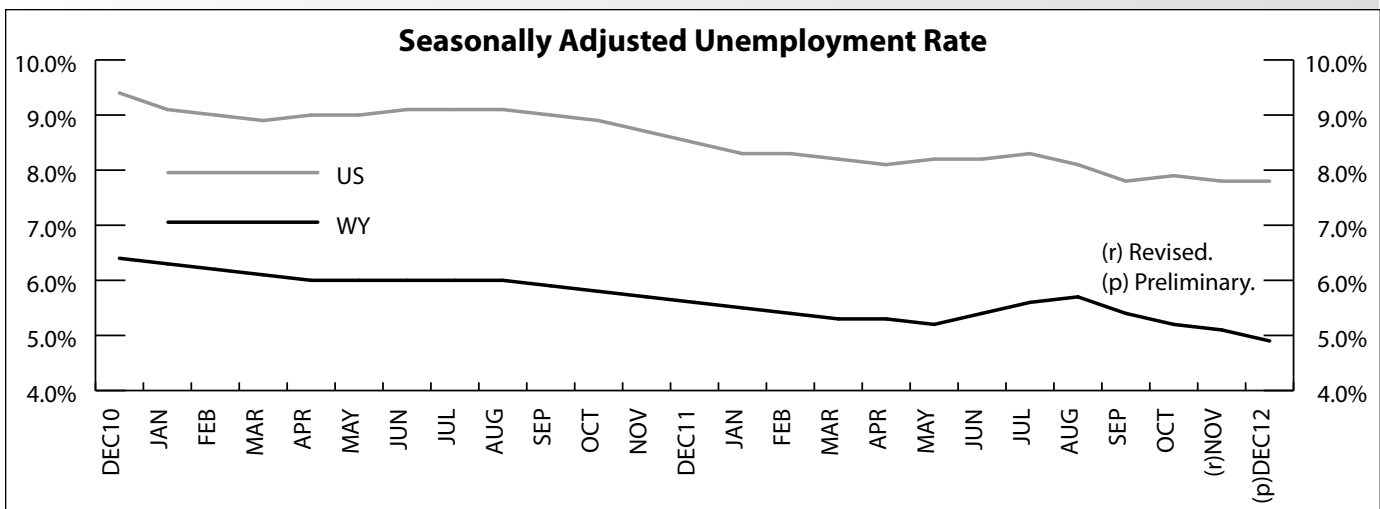
Most county unemployment rates decreased from December 2011 to December 2012. The largest decreases occurred in Lincoln (down from 8.1% to 7.0%), Natrona (down from 5.4% to 4.4%), and Johnson (down from 6.6% to 5.6%) counties. Unemployment rates increased in Sublette (up from 3.1% to 3.6%), Hot Springs (up from 4.6% to 5.0%), and Campbell (up from 4.1% to 4.2%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (measured by place of work) stood at 284,600 jobs in December 2012, unchanged from a year earlier.



Research & Planning
Wyoming DWS

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



Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, December 2012

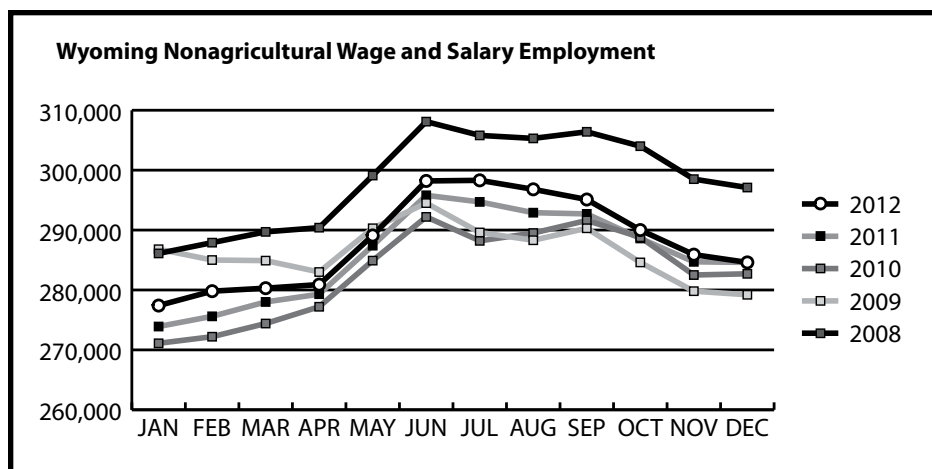
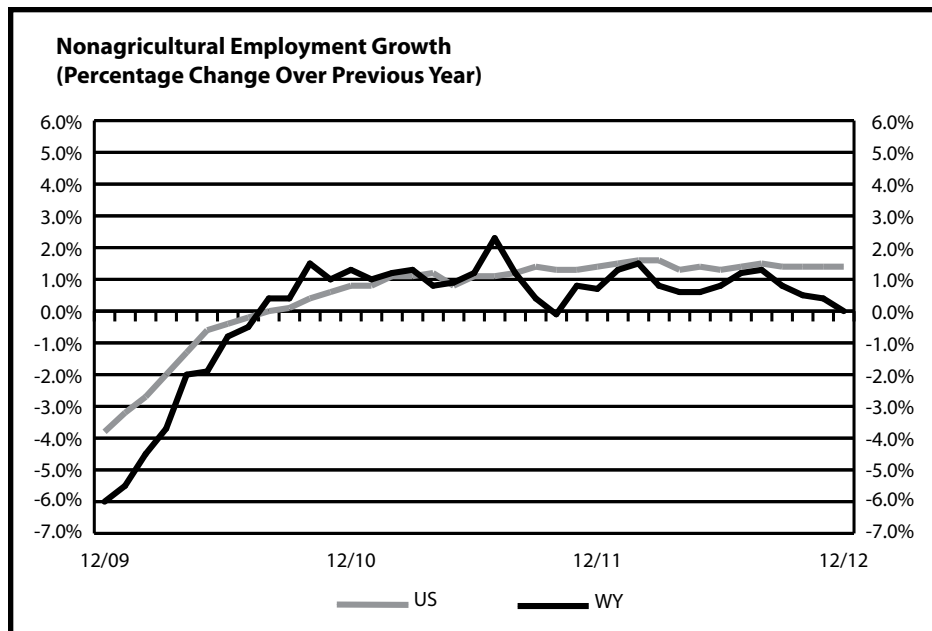
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	289,438	284,600	-4,838	-1.7%
Natural Resources & Mining	27,930	27,300	-630	-2.3%
Construction	20,220	19,500	-720	-3.7%
Manufacturing	9,504	9,000	-504	-5.6%
Wholesale Trade	9,271	9,300	29	0.3%
Retail Trade	29,849	30,300	451	1.5%
Transportation & Utilities	14,737	14,500	-237	-1.6%
Information	3,941	3,800	-141	-3.7%
Financial Activities	10,474	10,900	426	3.9%
Professional & Business Services	17,611	16,200	-1,411	-8.7%
Educational & Health Services	27,202	27,600	398	1.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	31,640	29,700	-1,940	-6.5%
Other Services	12,017	11,300	-717	-6.3%
Government	75,042	75,200	158	0.2%

Projections run in October 2012 and based on QCEW Data through June 2012.

State Unemployment Rates December 2012 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	14.0
Nevada	10.2
Rhode Island	10.2
California	9.8
New Jersey	9.6
North Carolina	9.2
Michigan	8.9
Illinois	8.7
Connecticut	8.6
Georgia	8.6
Mississippi	8.6
District of Columbia	8.5
Oregon	8.4
South Carolina	8.4
Indiana	8.2
New York	8.2
Kentucky	8.1
Florida	8.0
Arizona	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.9
United States	7.8
Colorado	7.6
Tennessee	7.6
Washington	7.6
West Virginia	7.5
Maine	7.3
Alabama	7.1
Arkansas	7.1
Delaware	6.9
Massachusetts	6.7
Missouri	6.7
Ohio	6.7
Alaska	6.6
Idaho	6.6
Maryland	6.6
Wisconsin	6.6
New Mexico	6.4
Texas	6.1
Montana	5.7
New Hampshire	5.7
Louisiana	5.5
Minnesota	5.5
Virginia	5.5
Kansas	5.4
Hawaii	5.2
Utah	5.2
Oklahoma	5.1
Vermont	5.1
Iowa	4.9
Wyoming	4.9
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	3.7
North Dakota	3.2



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	% Change Total Employment				
	Employment in Thousands			Nov 12 Dec 11	
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 12
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.6	28.7	28.7	-0.3	-0.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.7	23.8	23.8	-0.4	-0.4
GOODS PRODUCING	11.1	11.3	11.4	-1.8	-2.6
Natural Resources & Mining	8.3	8.3	8.6	0.0	-3.5
Construction	2.3	2.5	2.3	-8.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.5	17.4	17.3	0.6	1.2
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.0	1.0	10.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0
Other Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0

	% Change Total Employment				
	Employment in Thousands			Nov 12 Dec 11	
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 12
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.6	25.6	25.7	0.0	-0.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.6	20.7	20.7	-0.5	-0.5
GOODS PRODUCING	9.0	9.2	9.2	-2.2	-2.2
Natural Resources & Mining	6.0	6.0	6.1	0.0	-1.6
Construction	1.6	1.8	1.7	-11.1	-5.9
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.6	16.4	16.5	1.2	0.6
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.3	5.2	5.2	1.9	1.9
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.0	4.9	5.0	2.0	0.0

	% Change Total Employment				
	Employment in Thousands			Nov 12 Dec 11	
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 12
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	16.6	14.0	16.5	18.6	0.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	14.2	11.7	14.1	21.4	0.7
GOODS PRODUCING	1.8	1.9	1.9	-5.3	-5.3
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.8	12.1	14.6	22.3	1.4
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.4	2.2	2.3	9.1	4.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	0.9	0.9	11.1	11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	6.1	3.8	6.2	60.5	-1.6
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0

State Unemployment Rates December 2012 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.4
Nevada	9.8
California	9.7
North Carolina	9.5
Rhode Island	9.4
New Jersey	9.3
Mississippi	9.1
Michigan	8.9
Georgia	8.8
South Carolina	8.8
District of Columbia	8.6
Illinois	8.6
Indiana	8.5
Oregon	8.3
New York	8.2
Arizona	7.9
Florida	7.9
Kentucky	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.9
Connecticut	7.8
Washington	7.7
Tennessee	7.6
United States	7.6
Colorado	7.5
West Virginia	7.4
Maine	7.3
Alaska	7.1
Arkansas	7.1
Delaware	6.9
Maryland	6.7
Massachusetts	6.6
Ohio	6.6
Alabama	6.5
Missouri	6.5
New Mexico	6.5
Wisconsin	6.5
Idaho	6.4
Texas	6.0
Montana	5.8
New Hampshire	5.6
Louisiana	5.5
Minnesota	5.4
Virginia	5.4
Kansas	5.3
Iowa	5.2
Utah	5.2
Oklahoma	5.0
Wyoming	5.0
Hawaii	4.8
Vermont	4.7
South Dakota	4.5
Nebraska	3.7
North Dakota	3.3

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The number of weeks compensated by Wyoming unemployment insurance fell by 5.1% from December 2011 to December 2012.

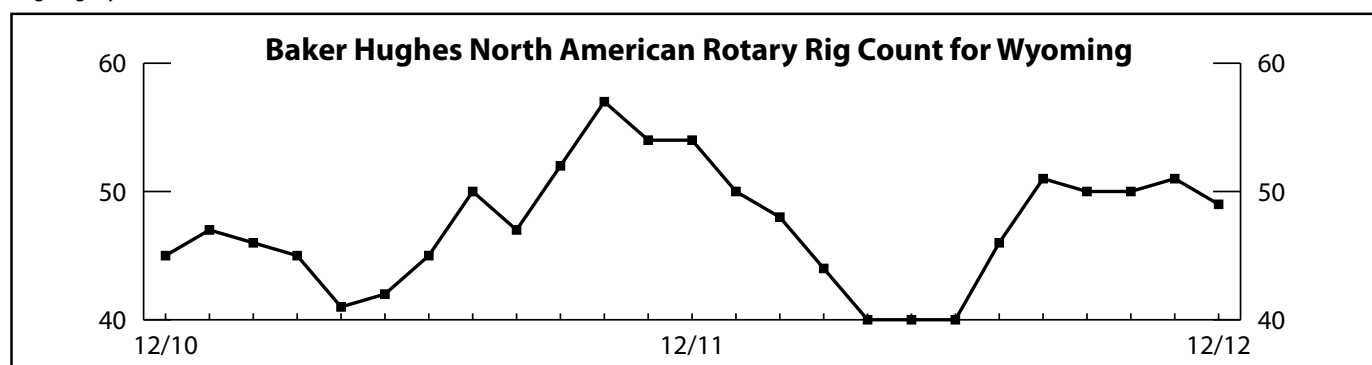
	Dec 2012 (p)	Nov 2012 (r)	Dec 2011 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	284,600	285,900	284,600	-0.5	0.0
Wyoming State Government	17,400	17,600	17,400	-1.1	0.0
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	45,800	46,100	44,900	-0.7	2.0
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	41,300	41,600	41,100	-0.7	0.5
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,081,000	7,235,000	7,030,000	-2.1	0.7
As a percent of all workers	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	1,068,000	979,000	945,000	9.1	13.0
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	8,166,000	7,994,000	8,428,000	2.2	-3.1
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	22,643	20,039	23,863	13.0	-5.1
Benefits Paid	\$7,630,442	\$6,682,178	\$7,598,131	14.2	0.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$336.99	\$333.46	\$318.41	1.1	5.8
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	267,946	267,847	263,575	0.0	1.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.1%	2.7%	3.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	229.6	230.2	225.7	-0.3	1.7
Food & Beverages	235.2	234.7	231.1	0.2	1.8
Housing	224.0	223.8	220.2	0.1	1.7
Apparel	125.7	129.6	123.5	-3.0	1.8
Transportation	211.9	214.5	208.6	-1.2	1.6
Medical Care	418.7	418.7	405.6	0.0	3.2
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	114.4	114.8	113.5	-0.3	0.8
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	134.7	134.7	132.7	0.0	1.5
Other Goods & Services	396.8	396.7	391.0	0.0	1.5
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	201.5	201.8	199.8	-0.1	0.9
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	168	115	64	46.1	162.5
Valuation	\$19,890,000	\$25,416,000	\$13,596,000	-21.7	46.3
Single Family Homes	62	110	57	-43.6	8.8
Valuation	\$13,103,000	\$24,941,000	\$12,996,000	-47.5	0.8
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	43	19	14	126.3	207.1
Valuation	\$5,518,000	\$3,070,000	\$2,867,000	79.7	92.5
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	20	30	12	-33.3	66.7
Valuation	\$3,641,000	\$1,631,000	\$2,275,000	123.2	60.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	49	51	54	-3.9	-9.3

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm>.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Sublette (3.6%), Converse (3.7%), and Niobrara (3.8%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 2012 (p)	Nov 2012 (r)	Dec 2011 (b)	Dec 2012 (p)	Nov 2012 (r)	Dec 2011 (b)	Dec 2012 (p)	Nov 2012 (r)	Dec 2011 (b)	Dec 2012 (p)	Nov 2012 (r)	Dec 2011 (b)
NORTHWEST	46,389	47,050	47,018	43,685	44,365	44,024	2,704	2,685	2,994	5.8	5.7	6.4
Big Horn	5,092	5,232	5,276	4,799	4,934	4,954	293	298	322	5.8	5.7	6.1
Fremont	19,700	19,980	19,672	18,483	18,776	18,350	1,217	1,204	1,322	6.2	6.0	6.7
Hot Springs	2,509	2,542	2,602	2,383	2,419	2,482	126	123	120	5.0	4.8	4.6
Park	14,666	14,851	14,995	13,803	13,992	13,999	863	859	996	5.9	5.8	6.6
Washakie	4,422	4,445	4,473	4,217	4,244	4,239	205	201	234	4.6	4.5	5.2
NORTHEAST	54,242	55,354	54,624	51,636	52,821	51,820	2,606	2,533	2,804	4.8	4.6	5.1
Campbell	27,845	28,588	27,593	26,683	27,447	26,451	1,162	1,141	1,142	4.2	4.0	4.1
Crook	3,513	3,611	3,545	3,334	3,432	3,362	179	179	183	5.1	5.0	5.2
Johnson	3,824	3,923	3,957	3,609	3,716	3,694	215	207	263	5.6	5.3	6.6
Sheridan	15,746	15,866	16,222	14,848	15,014	15,182	898	852	1,040	5.7	5.4	6.4
Weston	3,314	3,366	3,307	3,162	3,212	3,131	152	154	176	4.6	4.6	5.3
SOUTHWEST	63,768	63,286	65,353	60,456	59,755	61,652	3,312	3,531	3,701	5.2	5.6	5.7
Lincoln	7,660	7,688	8,099	7,123	7,167	7,441	537	521	658	7.0	6.8	8.1
Sublette	7,351	7,444	8,007	7,088	7,174	7,758	263	270	249	3.6	3.6	3.1
Sweetwater	24,834	25,115	25,144	23,792	24,059	24,003	1,042	1,056	1,141	4.2	4.2	4.5
Teton	12,821	11,794	13,265	11,879	10,651	12,193	942	1,143	1,072	7.3	9.7	8.1
Uinta	11,102	11,245	10,838	10,574	10,704	10,257	528	541	581	4.8	4.8	5.4
SOUTHEAST	77,746	79,012	78,344	73,864	75,026	73,876	3,882	3,986	4,468	5.0	5.0	5.7
Albany	20,918	21,265	20,845	20,110	20,404	19,978	808	861	867	3.9	4.0	4.2
Goshen	6,492	6,640	6,746	6,188	6,310	6,392	304	330	354	4.7	5.0	5.2
Laramie	45,024	45,663	45,287	42,510	43,140	42,338	2,514	2,523	2,949	5.6	5.5	6.5
Niobrara	1,276	1,320	1,292	1,228	1,269	1,237	48	51	55	3.8	3.9	4.3
Platte	4,036	4,124	4,174	3,828	3,903	3,931	208	221	243	5.2	5.4	5.8
CENTRAL	59,009	59,465	59,019	56,392	56,783	55,876	2,617	2,682	3,143	4.4	4.5	5.3
Carbon	7,578	7,769	7,651	7,174	7,362	7,190	404	407	461	5.3	5.2	6.0
Converse	8,124	8,236	7,825	7,826	7,913	7,478	298	323	347	3.7	3.9	4.4
Natrona	43,307	43,460	43,543	41,392	41,508	41,208	1,915	1,952	2,335	4.4	4.5	5.4
STATEWIDE	301,155	304,170	304,358	286,034	288,751	287,248	15,121	15,419	17,110	5.0	5.1	5.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.9	5.1	5.6
U.S.										7.6	7.4	8.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										7.8	7.8	8.5

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2012. Run Date 01/2013.

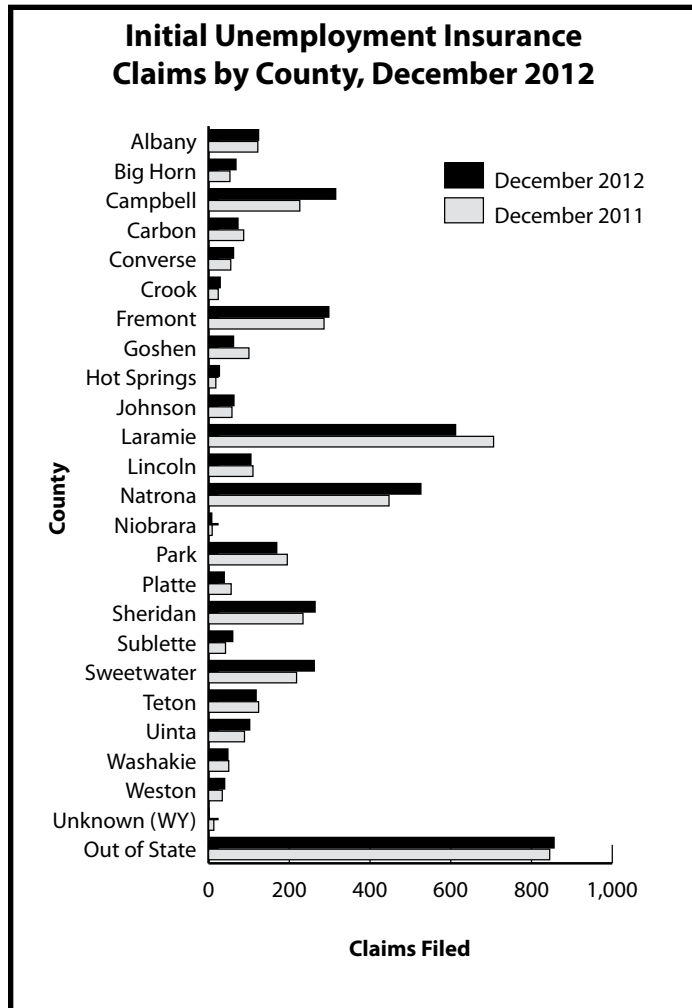
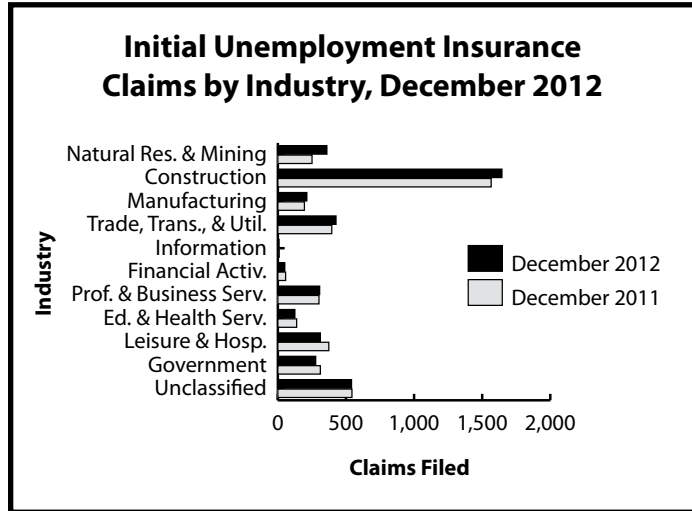
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Patrick Harris, Principal Economist

The number of initial claims increased substantially from year-ago levels in oil & gas extraction (187.5%) and wholesale trade (123.3%).



Initial Claims	Claims Filed		Percent Change Claims Filed		
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Dec 11	
Wyoming Statewide	4,328	4,027	4,201	7.5	3.0
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,219	1,337	2,014	66.0	10.2
Natural Res. & Mining	360	260	251	38.5	43.4
Mining	333	229	230	45.4	44.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	23	16	8	43.8	187.5
Construction	1,645	991	1,566	66.0	5.0
Manufacturing	213	85	195	150.6	9.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,290	1,733	1,329	-25.6	-2.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	427	515	396	-17.1	7.8
Wholesale Trade	96	185	43	-48.1	123.3
Retail Trade	194	191	203	1.6	-4.4
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	137	139	150	-1.4	-8.7
Information	9	16	10	-43.8	-10.0
Financial Activities	51	56	57	-8.9	-10.5
Prof. and Business Svcs.	307	300	302	2.3	1.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	125	122	138	2.5	-9.4
Leisure & Hospitality	312	634	374	-50.8	-16.6
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	54	84	47	-35.7	14.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	278	399	312	-30.3	-10.9
Federal Government	140	258	188	-45.7	-25.5
State Government	18	27	21	-33.3	-14.3
Local Government	119	113	102	5.3	16.7
Local Education	21	20	29	5.0	-27.6
UNCLASSIFIED	541	557	544	-2.9	-0.6

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	611	467	705	30.8	-13.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	369	193	409	91.2	-9.8
Construction	318	184	302	72.8	5.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	203	222	237	-8.6	-14.3
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	67	90	107	-25.6	-37.4
Financial Activities	9	10	9	-10.0	0.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	60	52	57	15.4	5.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	16	20	14	-20.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	38	35	41	8.6	-7.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21	28	41	-25.0	-48.8
UNCLASSIFIED	17	22	18	-22.7	-5.6

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	526	416	447	26.4	17.7
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	309	156	245	98.1	26.1
Construction	198	113	206	75.2	-3.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	186	234	176	-20.5	5.7
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	74	89	51	-16.9	45.1
Financial Activities	9	6	7	50.0	28.6
Prof. & Business Svcs.	42	51	35	-17.6	20.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	18	35	27	-48.6	-33.3
Leisure & Hospitality	26	38	43	-31.6	-39.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	11	15	45.5	6.7
UNCLASSIFIED	14	12	9	16.7	55.6

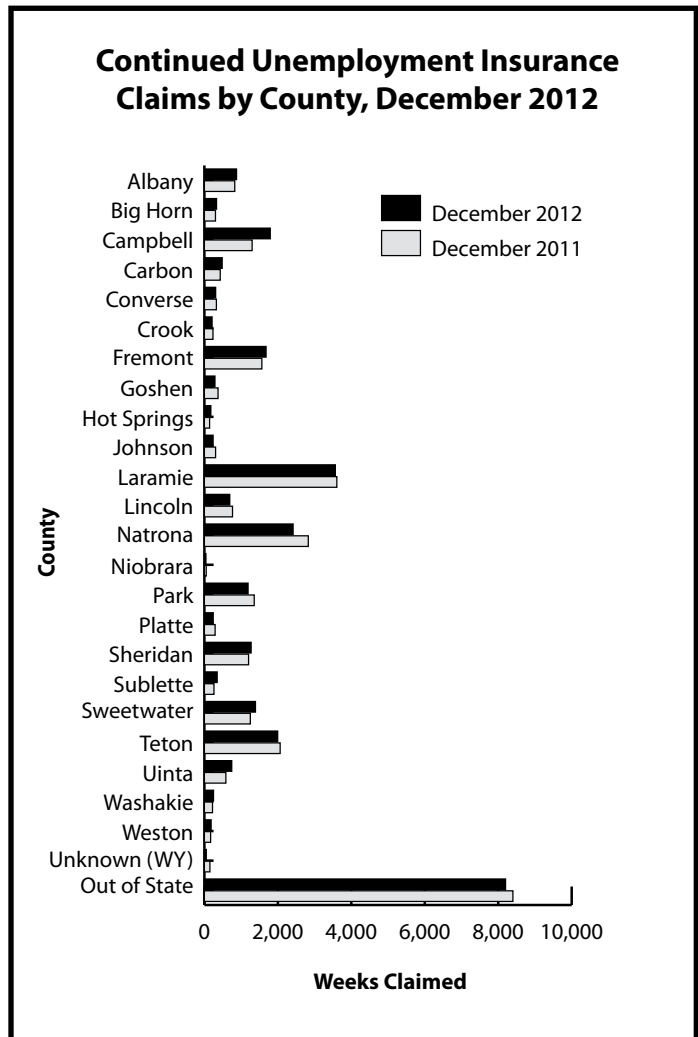
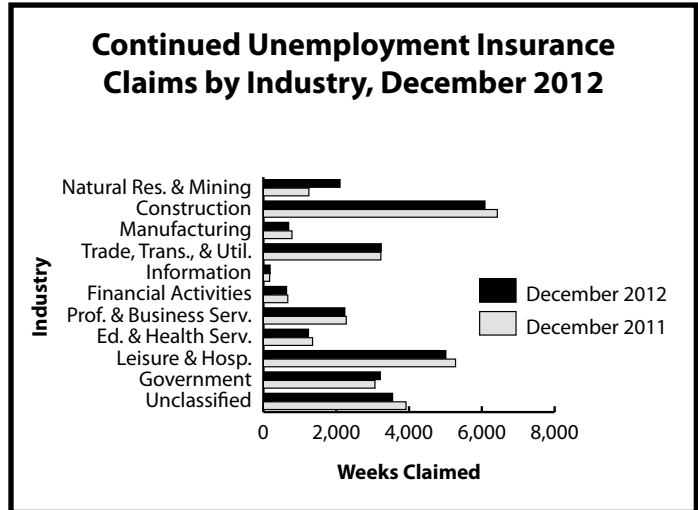
^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

The total number of continued weeks claimed remained stable from year-ago levels (-0.1%) while increases were seen in natural resources & mining (68.5%) and wholesale trade (48.2%).

	Claims Filed		Percent Change		Claims Filed	
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Dec 12	Dec 12	Dec 11
	Dec 12	Nov 12	Dec 11	Nov 12	Dec 11	Dec 11
Wyoming Statewide						
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	28,969	25,318	29,009	14.4	-3.7	-0.1
EXTENDED WEEKS CLAIMED	4,999	5,190	10,634	-3.7	-53.0	-1.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	8,566	7,455	8,652	14.9	-1.0	-1.0
<i>Benefit Exhaustions</i>	540	497	601	8.7	-10.1	-10.1
<i>Benefit Exhaustion Rates</i>	6.3%	6.7%	6.9%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.6%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	8,888	6,658	8,462	33.5	5.0	5.0
Natural Res. & Mining	2,106	1,889	1,250	11.5	68.5	68.5
Mining	1,839	1,686	1,016	9.1	81.0	81.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	179	169	111	5.9	61.3	61.3
Construction	6,086	4,180	6,425	45.6	-5.3	-5.3
Manufacturing	694	587	785	18.2	-11.6	-11.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	13,319	13,225	13,562	0.7	-1.8	-1.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	3,237	2,876	3,227	12.6	0.3	0.3
Wholesale Trade	750	615	506	22.0	48.2	48.2
Retail Trade	1,625	1,480	1,875	9.8	-13.3	-13.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	862	781	846	10.4	1.9	1.9
Information	185	175	172	5.7	7.6	7.6
Financial Activities	637	604	670	5.5	-4.9	-4.9
Prof. & Business Services	2,237	1,790	2,276	25.0	-1.7	-1.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,238	1,236	1,350	0.2	-8.3	-8.3
Leisure and Hospitality	5,012	5,818	5,278	-13.9	-5.0	-5.0
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	765	720	583	6.3	31.2	31.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3,212	2,803	3,065	14.6	4.8	4.8
Federal Government	1,609	1,215	1,573	32.4	2.3	2.3
State Government	313	299	311	4.7	0.6	0.6
Local Government	1,289	1,288	1,179	0.1	9.3	9.3
Local Education	297	331	259	-10.3	14.7	14.7
UNCLASSIFIED	3,549	2,630	3,918	34.9	-9.4	-9.4
Laramie County						
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,565	2,992	3,605	19.2	-1.1	-1.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,035	888	1,094	16.6	-5.4	-5.4
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,166	746	1,263	56.3	-7.7	-7.7
Construction	1,018	623	1,122	63.4	-9.3	-9.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,903	1,747	1,783	8.9	6.7	6.7
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	512	434	572	18.0	-10.5	-10.5
Financial Activities	187	175	164	6.9	14.0	14.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	463	399	459	16.0	0.9	0.9
Educational and Health Svcs.	232	215	239	7.9	-2.9	-2.9
Leisure & Hospitality	312	296	231	5.4	35.1	35.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	348	357	371	-2.5	-6.2	-6.2
UNCLASSIFIED	147	140	187	5.0	-21.4	-21.4
Natrona County						
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,416	2,066	2,828	16.9	-14.6	-14.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	735	649	838	13.3	-12.3	-12.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	853	654	1,000	30.4	-14.7	-14.7
Construction	471	306	780	53.9	-39.6	-39.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,405	1,251	1,565	12.3	-10.2	-10.2
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	435	410	461	6.1	-5.6	-5.6
Financial Activities	67	65	89	3.1	-24.7	-24.7
Professional & Business Svcs.	281	188	307	49.5	-8.5	-8.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	236	229	302	3.1	-21.9	-21.9
Leisure & Hospitality	247	212	262	16.5	-5.7	-5.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	98	106	187	-7.5	-47.6	-47.6
UNCLASSIFIED	59	54	75	9.3	-21.3	-21.3



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

^bDoes not include claimants receiving extended benefits.

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