

# Expansion and Contraction of the Wyoming and U.S. Economies, 1990-2022: A Study in Contrasts

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming's economy often moves in a different direction from the national economy. This article looks at employment in Wyoming and the U.S. at different points over the last 30 years to illustrate some of those differences.

Wyoming's economy has been through many ups and downs. This article focuses on employment dynamics from 1990 to 2022 and compares Wyoming to the U.S. in two important measures: total nonfarm employment and the unemployment rate. Because Wyoming's economy is more dependent on the mining sector (including oil & gas), it is highly influenced by energy prices. When energy prices rise, Wyoming's economy tends to add jobs, but when energy prices decline, exploration and extraction activity slow and employment often falls. On the other hand, changing energy prices have a much smaller effect on the U.S. economy.

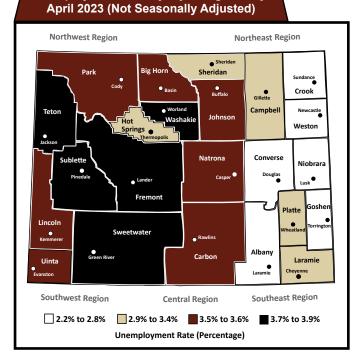
Figure 1 (see page 3) shows total nonfarm employment for Wyoming and the United States from 1990 to 2022. Over that span of 33 years, Wyoming added 92,700 jobs (47.4%) and the U.S. added 45.4 million jobs (41.6%). Although the overall trend both in Wyoming and the U.S. was an upward pattern of job growth, there were a few times when U.S. job growth and Wyoming job growth diverged.

Figure 2 (see page 3) focuses on a shorter time frame in order to provide a close-up view of employment from 2000 to 2004. This period includes the U.S. recession, which ran from March 2001 to November 2001 (NBER, 2021). U.S. employment peaked at 132.8 million jobs in February 2001, and then declined by 2.6 million jobs (-2.0%), reaching a trough in August 2003. Wyoming employment continued to grow during this period,

(Text continued on page 3)

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Wyoming is projected to add more than 1,800 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs over the next 10 years. ... page 6
- The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming rose from 15 in April 2022 to 19 in April 2023, a 26.7% increase. ... page 18



Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County,

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#### Wyoming Labor Force Trends



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(Text continued from page 1)

adding 8,000 jobs (3.3%). One of the primary drivers of the U.S. recession was the manufacturing sector, which lost 2.7 million jobs (-15.6%). The next largest job losses were in professional & business services, which fell by 821,000 jobs (-4.9%).

From 2003 to 2008, Wyoming added

jobs at a much faster pace than the U.S. (see Figure 1). That was because mining employment grew rapidly in Wyoming. The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming more than tripled from 33 in January 2003 to 109 in September 2006. This was also a period of in-migration as workers moved to Wyoming from other states. Rapid job growth caused Wyoming's unemployment rate to fall to a low point of 2.6% in eight

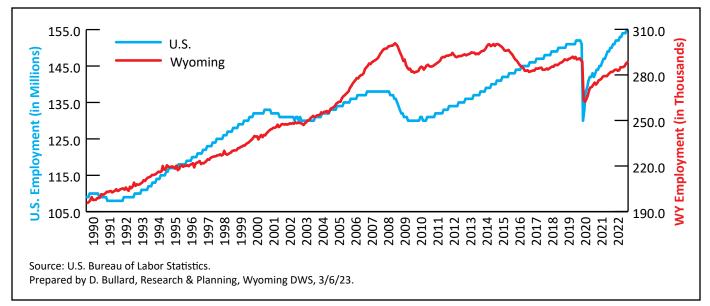


Figure 1: Wyoming and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, 1990-2022

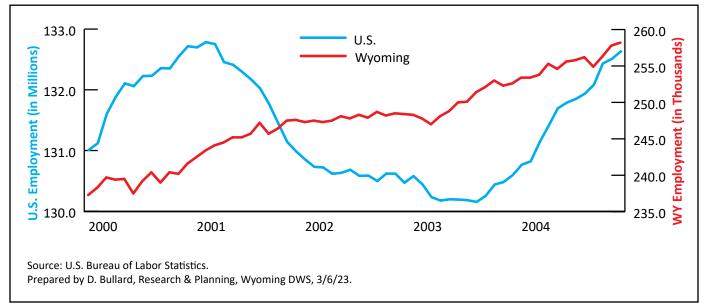


Figure 2: Wyoming and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, 2000-2004

different months in 2007 and 2008 (See Figure 3).

Figure 4 shows employment from 2014 to 2018. During these years, U.S. employment grew very steadily, but Wyoming lost 18,300 jobs (-6.1%) from January 2015 to December 2016. The job losses in Wyoming were primarily in the mining sector (including oil & gas; -8,800 jobs, or -32.6%). As oil prices collapsed, Wyoming's rig count fell from 61 in November 2014 to seven in May 2016. Additionally, major layoffs were announced at several Wyoming coal mines (Johnson, 2016). In contrast, the U.S. added 4.8 million jobs (3.4%) from January 2015 to December 2016. Wyoming's unemployment rate rose from 3.9% in February 2015 to 5.7% in April 2016 (see

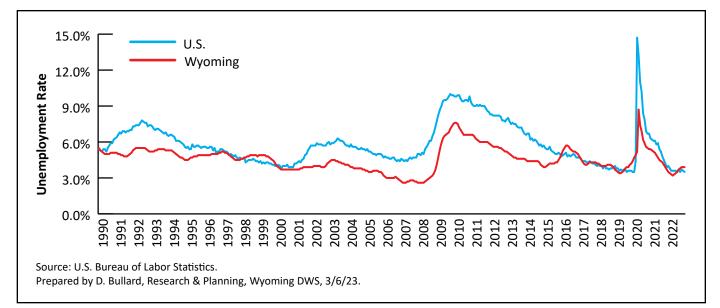


Figure 3: Wyoming and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 1990-2022

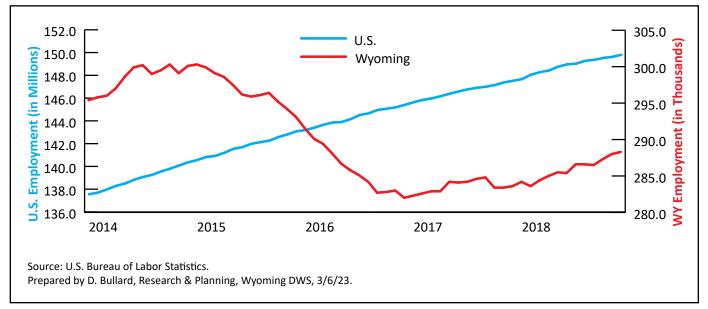


Figure 4: Wyoming and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, 2014-2018

Figure 3). Each month from January 2016 to January 2017, Wyoming had a higher unemployment rate than the U.S.

The pandemic period is illustrated in Figure 5. From January 2020 to April 2020, the U.S. lost 21.7 million jobs (-16.6%). Wyoming employment fell by a smaller amount (27,500 jobs, or -10.4%). Despite having smaller job losses, Wyoming's economy has been slower to recover. U.S. nonfarm employment exceeded its January 2020 level in June 2022, but in December 2022, Wyoming's total nonfarm employment was still slightly lower (-2,500 jobs, or -0.9%) than its January 2020 level. It is not clear why the recovery in Wyoming has been less robust than the U.S. The U.S. unemployment rate skyrocketed from 3.5% in February 2020 to 14.7% in April 2020 (see Figure 3). Wyoming's unemployment rate also rose, but peaked at 8.7% in May 2020.

In summary, it is not unusual for Wyoming's economy to move in a different direction from the U.S. economy. Sometimes, that divergence is related to large changes in energy prices. In 2001, when the U.S. was in a recession, Wyoming continued to add jobs. From 2003 to 2008, the state's energy sector expanded rapidly and Wyoming employment rose much faster than the U.S. Later, in 2015 and 2016, declining energy prices caused Wyoming employment to fall, while the U.S. steadily grew. Wyoming is now adding jobs and recovering from pandemic job losses. With the Federal Reserve raising interest rates in an effort to deal with inflation, there is a larger-than-normal amount of uncertainty regarding the nearterm direction of the U.S. economy.

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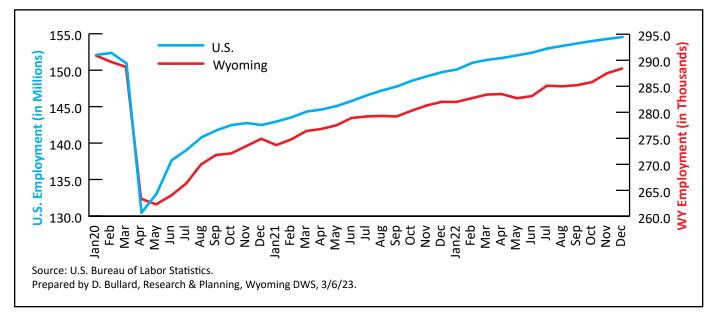


Figure 5: Wyoming and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, 2020-2022

# **Projected Job Openings for STEM Occupations in Wyoming**

by: Michael Moore, Research Supervisor

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified more than 100 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations (BLS, 2022). As discussed in a recent article from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, STEM occupations made up approximately 4.6% of Wyoming's total employment in 2022 (Hauf, 2023).

STEM occupations consist of computer and mathematical, architecture & engineering, and life & physical science occupations. In addition, STEM occupations also include managerial and postsecondary teaching occupations related to these areas, and sales occupations requiring scientific or technical knowledge at the postsecondary level. As noted by Hauf, these four occupational groups "encourage advanced education in science, technology, engineering, and math, along with other skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity."

According to R&P's most recent long-term occupational projections, the number of jobs in STEM occupations in Wyoming is projected to grow by 15.2% from 2020 to 2030, with more than 12,000 total openings in these occupations over the next 10 years. This article uses projections data to determine which STEM occupations are expected to have the greatest number of total openings over the next 10 years, along with the educational requirements typically required to enter these occupations.

More articles and data on STEM occupations in Wyoming are available at https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/STEM.htm.

#### **Now Online**

**STEM Occupations in Wyoming** https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/STEM.htm

Industry and Occupational Projections https://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections.htm

#### **STEM Projections**

R&P publishes long-term industry and occupational projections every other year. The most recent long-term projections were published during the spring of 2022, and indicated that Wyoming was projected to add more than 40,000 new jobs from 2020 to 2030 (Yetter, 2022).

In addition to new jobs attributed to growth, the long-term occupational projections also include the number of projected openings due to persons changing jobs (*transfers*) or leaving the workforce (*exits*). *Total openings* refers to the sum of growth, transfers, and exits.

Transfers and exits account for considerably more openings than growth. For example, the most-recent long-term projections showed 373,250 total openings from 2020 to 2030. Of the total, 202,603 (54.3%) were due to transfers, 128,957 (34.5%) were due to exits, and 41,690 (11.2%) were due to growth.

For this article, R&P looked at the 67 STEM occupations for which data were available in the 2020-2030 long-term occupational projections. The complete projections table for all 67 occupations is available at the end of this article in Table 2 (see pages 9-14). The table also includes STEM occupations for which data were not discloseable due confidentiality. This means that those particular jobs were found in Wyoming, but either had too little data to publish, or at least 75% employment for a given occupation belonged to one employer.

From 2020 to 2030, Wyoming's total STEM employment is projected to grow from

12,037 to 13,867 — an increase of 1,830 new jobs, or 15.2%. The projected growth rate of 15.2% is nearly twice the national average of 7.7% (Moore, 2023). Wyoming is projected to have 12,404 total openings in STEM occupations, including 2,958 due to exits and 7,616 due to transfers (see Table 1).

Figure 1 (see page 8) compares educational requirements for STEM occupations to the overall total, and

Table 1: Long-Term Occupational Projections for Top 10 STEM Occupations with the Greatest Total Openings in Wyoming, 2020-2030										
/ · · · · 0		Employ	yment		Ту	pe of Openi	ing			
SOCª Code	Occupation	2020 (Base)	2030 (Proj.)	Growth N	Growth %	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Educational Requirement	
00-0000	Occupations	277,769	319,459	41,690	15.0	128,957	202,603	373,250		
00-0001		12,037	13,867	1,830	15.2	2,958	7,616	12,404		
17-2051	Civil Engineers	921	1,129	208	22.6	204	511	923	Bachelor's degree	
19-4071	Forest & Conservation Technicians	638	662	24	3.8	174	610	808	Associate's degree	
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	709	848	139	19.6	146	412	697	Some college, no degree	
19-2041	Environmental Scientists & Specialists, Including Health	501	579	78	15.6	90	429	597	Bachelor's degree	
15-1256	Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	429	581	152	35.4	117	248	517	Bachelor's degree	
19-2042	Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists & Geographers	344	410	66	19.2	63	299	428	Bachelor's degree	
15-1244	Network & Computer Systems Administrators	517	577	60	11.6	92	258	410	Bachelor's degree	
15-1231	Computer Network Support Specialists	356	416	60	16.9	72	204	336	Associate's degree	
17-1022	Surveyors	282	340	58	20.6	107	154	319	Bachelor's degree	
17-2171	Petroleum Engineers	349	412	63	18.1	74	170	307	Bachelor's degree	

STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23.

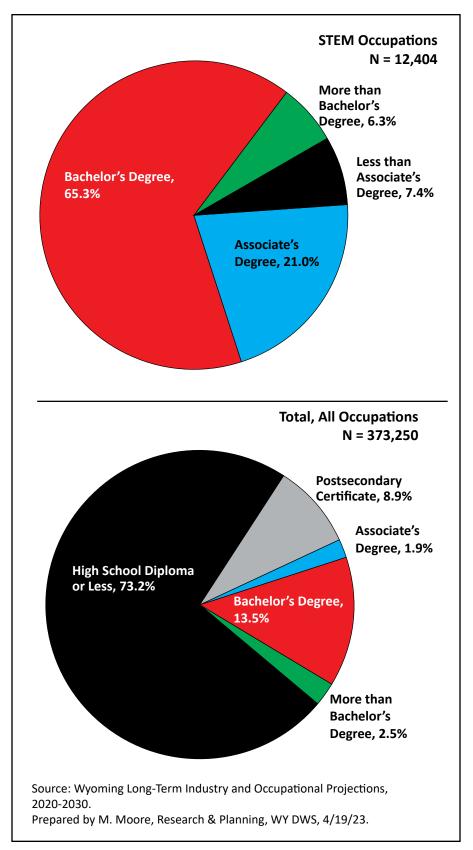


Figure 1: Educational Requirement for Total Openings in Long-Term Occupational Projections for Wyoming, 2020-2030

shows the prevalence of postsecondary degrees in STEM occupations. Of the 373,250 total projected openings in Wyoming, nearly three of every four (73.2%) require a high school diploma or less, and 13.5% require a bachelor's degree. In contrast, only two STEM occupations (7.4%) require less than an associate's degree, while nearly two-thirds (65.3%) require a bachelor's degree.

The 10 occupations with the greatest number of total projected openings are presented in Table 1 (see page 7). Civil engineers is projected to have 923 total openings from 2020 to 2030, including 208 due to growth (a 22.6% increase), 204 due to exits, and 511 due to transfers. This is an occupation that requires a bachelor's degree. Software developers & software quality assurance analysts & testers is projected to have 517 total openings, including 152 growth openings; this is a 35.4% increase, the greatest projected growth increase of the occupations in Table 1.

Of the top 10 STEM occupations shown in Table 1, seven require a bachelor's degree, two require an associate's degree, and one requires some college, no degree.

### Conclusion

Wyoming's STEM occupations are projected to grow at nearly twice the national average from 2020 to 2030. During that period, Wyoming is projected to have 12,404 total openings in STEM occupations due to growth, people changing jobs, and people leaving the workforce.

The data presented in the table at the end of this article are valuable to jobseekers, educators, training providers, employers, and others. Projections data can help these individuals gain an understanding of the types of jobs that will need filled over the next 10 years, along with the education, experience, and training that those occupations typically require.

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mathematics (STEM) occupations in Wyoming. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 60(2). Research & Planning, WY DWS. Retrieved April 24, 2023, from https:// doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends/0223/ a1.htm

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		Employ	yment		Ту	pe of Open	ing		
SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Occupation	2020 (Base)	2030 (Proj.)	Growth N	Growth %	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Educational Requirement
00-0000	Total, All Occupations	277,769	319,459	41,690	15.0	128,957	202,603	373,250	
00-0001	STEM Occupations	12,037	13,867	1,830	15.2	2,958	7,616	12,404	
11-3021	Computer & Information Systems Managers	201	231	30	14.9	35	123	188	Bachelor's degree
11-9041	Architectural & Engineering Managers	177	189	12	6.8	33	93	138	Bachelor's degree
11-9121	Natural Sciences Managers	153	161	8	5.2	31	77	116	Bachelor's degree
STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <sup>a</sup> Standard Occupational Classification. Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030. Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23. (Table continued on page 10)									

(Table continued from page 9)

#### Table 2: Long-Term Occupational Projections for STEM Occupations in Wyoming, 2020-2030

	Long-Term Occupation	Employ		Type of Opening					I
SOCª		2020	2030	Growth	Growth			Total	Educational
Code	Occupation	(Base)	(Proj.)	N	%	Exits	Transfers	Openings	Requirement
15-1211	Computer Systems Analysts	260	340	80	30.8	59	148	287	Bachelor's degree
15-1212	Information Security Analysts	42	55	13	31.0	7	27	47	Bachelor's degree
15-1231	Computer Network Support Specialists	356	416	60	16.9	72	204	336	Associate's degree
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	709	848	139	19.6	146	412	697	Some college, no degree
15-1241	Computer Network Architects	84	101	17	20.2	13	42	72	Bachelor's degree
15-1244	Network & Computer Systems Administrators	517	577	60	11.6	92	258	410	Bachelor's degree
15-1245	Database Administrators & Architects	273	294	21	7.7	66	139	226	Bachelor's degree
15-1251	Computer Programmers	167	186	19	11.4	35	81	135	Bachelor's degree
15-1256	Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	429	581	152	35.4	117	248	517	Bachelor's degree
15-1257	Web Developers & Digital Interface Designers	171	214	43	25.2	45	94	182	Bachelor's degree
15-1299	Computer Occupations, All Other	200	242	42	21.0	51	108	201	Bachelor's degree
15-2011	Actuaries	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
15-2031	Operations Research Analysts	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
15-2041	Statisticians	41	60	19	46.3	10	25	54	Master's degree
17-1011	Architects, Except Landscape & Naval	187	239	52	27.8	58	90	200	Bachelor's degree
	Landscape Architects	18	19	1	5.6	5	8	14	Bachelor's degree
17-1021	Cartographers & Photogrammetrists	98	107	9	9.2	35	51	95	Bachelor's degree
17-1022	Surveyors	282	340	58	20.6	107	154	319	Bachelor's degree
17-2021	Agricultural Engineers	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree

STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23.

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SOCª		2020	2030	Growth	Growth		<b>ч</b> ъ	Total	Educational
Code	Occupation	(Base)	(Proj.)	N	%	Exits	Transfers	Openings	Requirement
17-2031	Biomedical Engineers	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
17-2041	Chemical Engineers	66	68	2	3.0	13	25	40	Bachelor's degree
17-2051	Civil Engineers	921	1,129	208	22.6	204	511	923	Bachelor's degree
17-2061	Computer Hardware Engineers	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
17-2071	Electrical Engineers	271	312	41	15.1	69	117	227	Bachelor's degree
17-2072	Electronics Engineers, Except Computer	39	49	10	25.6	10	18	38	Bachelor's degree
17-2081	Environmental Engineers	183	216	33	18.0	47	97	177	Bachelor's degree
17-2111	Health & Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers & Inspectors	12	14	2	16.7	3	5	10	Bachelor's degree
17-2112	Industrial Engineers	176	185	9	5.1	39	72	120	Bachelor's degree
17-2131	Materials Engineers	20	26	6	30.0	5	9	20	Bachelor's degree
17-2141	Mechanical Engineers	301	356	55	18.3	56	135	246	Bachelor's degree
17-2151	Mining & Geological Engineers, Including Mining Safety Engineers	122	120	-2	-1.6	23	54	75	Bachelor's degree
17-2171	Petroleum Engineers	349	412	63	18.1	74	170	307	Bachelor's degree
17-2199	Engineers, All Other	108	110	2	1.9	23	45	70	Bachelor's degree
17-3011	Architectural & Civil Drafters	187	214	27	14.4	62	127	216	Associate's degree
17-3012	Electrical & Electronics Drafters	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Associate's degree
17-3013	Mechanical Drafters	44	45	1	2.3	14	28	43	Associate's degree
17-3019	Drafters, All Other	20	20	0	0.0	6	13	19	Associate's degree
17-3022	Civil Engineering Technicians	303	323	20	6.6	94	193	307	Associate's degree

STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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#### Table 2: Long-Term Occupational Projections for STEM Occupations in Wyoming, 2020-2030

	.ong-renn Occupation	Employ		Type of Opening					
SOCª		2020	2030	Growth	Growth		-	Total	Educational
Code	Occupation	(Base)	(Proj.)	N	%	Exits	Transfers	Openings	Requirement
17-3023	Electrical & Electronics Engineering Technicians	154	156	2	1.3	47	95	144	Associate's degree
17-3024	Electro-Mechanical Technicians	37	35	-2	-5.4	11	22	31	Associate's degree
17-3025	Environmental Engineering Technicians	38	49	11	29.0	13	27	51	Associate's degree
17-3026	Industrial Engineering Technicians	20	20	0	0.0	6	12	18	Associate's degree
17-3027	Mechanical Engineering Technicians	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Associate's degree
17-3031	Surveying & Mapping Technicians	147	177	30	20.4	57	140	227	High school diploma or equivalent
19-1011	Animal Scientists	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
19-1012	Food Scientists & Technologists	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
19-1013	Soil & Plant Scientists	22	24	2	9.1	5	19	26	Bachelor's degree
19-1021	Biochemists & Biophysicists	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Doctoral or professional degree
19-1023	Zoologists & Wildlife Biologists	270	274	4	1.5	44	191	239	Bachelor's degree
19-1029	Biological Scientists, All Other	169	174	5	3.0	28	121	154	Bachelor's degree
19-1031	Conservation Scientists	233	253	20	8.6	48	173	241	Bachelor's degree
19-1032	Foresters	76	78	2	2.6	15	55	72	Bachelor's degree
19-1041	Epidemiologists	21	28	7	33.3	3	14	24	Master's degree
19-1042	Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	22	32	10	45.5	4	16	30	Doctoral or professional degree
19-1099	Life Scientists, All Other	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
19-2011	Astronomers	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Doctoral or professional degree

STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23.

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		Employ		Type of Opening					1
SOCª		2020	2030	Growth	Growth		-	Total	Educational
Code	Occupation	(Base)	(Proj.)	N	%	Exits	Transfers	Openings	Requirement
19-2021	Atmospheric & Space Scientists	79	100	21	26.6	14	60	95	Bachelor's degree
19-2031	Chemists	106	124	18	17.0	17	85	120	Bachelor's degree
19-2041	Environmental Scientists & Specialists, Including Health	501	579	78	15.6	90	429	597	Bachelor's degree
19-2042	Geoscientists, Except Hydrologists & Geographers	344	410	66	19.2	63	299	428	Bachelor's degree
19-2043	Hydrologists	38	42	4	10.5	7	32	43	Bachelor's degree
19-2099	Physical Scientists, All Other	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
19-4021	Biological Technicians	201	211	10	5.0	49	206	265	Bachelor's degree
19-4031	Chemical Technicians	219	246	27	12.3	41	209	277	Associate's degree
19-4042	Environmental Science & Protection Technicians, Including Health	107	140	33	30.8	33	116	182	Associate's degree
19-4071	Forest & Conservation Technicians	638	662	24	3.8	174	610	808	Associate's degree
19-4092	Forensic Science Technicians	48	54	6	12.5	14	48	68	Bachelor's degree
19-4099	Life, Physical, & Social Science Technicians, All Other	109	122	13	11.9	31	108	152	Associate's degree
25-1021	Computer Science Teachers, Postsecondary	63	69	6	9.5	30	31	67	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1022	Mathematical Science Teachers, Postsecondary	138	149	11	8.0	64	67	142	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1032	Engineering Teachers, Postsecondary	115	133	18	15.7	55	58	131	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1041	Agricultural Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	52	56	4	7.7	24	25	53	Doctoral or professional degree
STEM Oc	cupations defined by	the U.S. Bui	reau of Lah	or Statistic	ç				

STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030.

Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23.

(Table continued on page 14)

#### (Table continued from page 13)

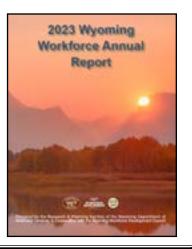
#### Table 2: Long-Term Occupational Projections for STEM Occupations in Wyoming, 2020-2030

		Employ	ment		Ту	pe of Openi	ng		
SOC <sup>a</sup> Code	Occupation	2020 (Base)	2030 (Proj.)	Growth N	Growth %	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Educational Requirement
25-1042	Biological Science Teachers, Postsecondary	120	139	19	15.8	58	61	138	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1051	Atmospheric, Earth, Marine, & Space Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	40	43	3	7.5	19	19	41	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1052	Chemistry Teachers, Postsecondary	38	42	4	10.5	18	19	41	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1053	Environmental Science Teachers, Postsecondary	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Doctoral or professional degree
25-1054	Physics Teachers, Postsecondary	30	33	3	10.0	14	15	32	Doctoral or professional degree
41-4011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Technical & Scientific Products	189	223	34	18.0	61	139	234	Bachelor's degree
41-9031	Sales Engineers	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	Bachelor's degree
STEM Occupations defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <sup>a</sup> Standard Occupational Classification. Source: Wyoming Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2020-2030. Prepared by M. Moore, Research & Planning, WY DWS, 4/19/23.									

# Coming Soon: 2023 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report

he 2023 Wyoming Workforce Annual Report from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, in partnership with the Wyoming Workforce Development Council, provides a wealth of information on Wyoming's labor market. The new report will be available online on June 30 at https:// doe.state.wy.us/LMI/annualreport/2023/2023\_Annual\_ Report.pdf.

A limited number of print copies are available by contacting Michael Moore at michael.moore@wyo.gov.



# Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 3.5% in April 2023

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported today that the state's seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate fell from 3.7% in March to 3.5% in April. Wyoming's unemployment rate was higher than its April 2022 level of 3.2% and slightly higher than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 3.4%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents rose by 1,376 individuals (0.5%) from March to April as people went back to work.

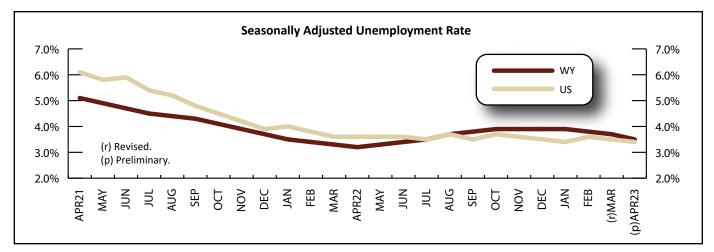
From March to April, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased. Jobless rates often fall in April as warmer weather brings seasonal job gains in construction, professional & business services, and other sectors. The largest unemployment rate decreases occurred in Washakie (down from 5.7% to 3.9%), Big Horn (down from 4.8% to 3.6%), and

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. Sweetwater (down from 5.0% to 3.8%) counties. Teton County's unemployment rate rose from 2.7% in March to 3.9% in April as the ski season ended.

From April 2022 to April 2023, unemployment rates rose modestly in 11 counties, fell in nine counties, and remained unchanged in three counties. The largest increases were seen in Niobrara (up from 2.0% to 2.8%) and Goshen (up from 2.4% to 2.8%) counties. Unemployment rates fell in Weston (down from 2.8% to 2.2%), Converse (down from 3.1% to 2.6%), and Teton (down from 4.4% to 3.9%) counties.

Weston County, at 2.2%, had the lowest unemployment rate in April. It was followed by Albany, Converse, and Crook counties, each at 2.6%. The highest unemployment rates were found in Sublette, Teton, and Washakie counties, each at 3.9%.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) rose from 279,400 in April 2022 to 285,300 in April 2023, an increase of 5,900 jobs (2.1%).

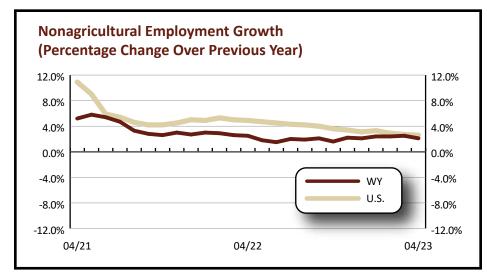


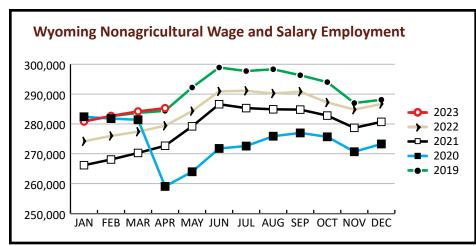
# Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Internal Estimates, April 2023

#### by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Internal Estimates	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	282,506	285,300	2,794	1.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	16,618	16,900	282	1.7%
Construction	20,657	21,100	443	2.1%
Manufacturing	10,185	10,500	315	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	7,993	7,400	-593	-8.0%
Retail Trade	29,975	30,000	25	0.1%
Transportation & Utilities	14,003	14,200	197	1.4%
Information	3,082	3,100	18	0.6%
Financial Activities	11,540	11,800	260	2.2%
Professional & Business Services	20,745	20,100	-645	-3.2%
Educational & Health Services	29,318	29,700	382	1.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	33,689	35,300	1,611	4.6%
Other Services	16,099	16,400	301	1.8%
Government	68,602	68,800	198	0.3%

Research & Planning's Internal Estimates were run in May 2023 and based on QCEW data through December 2022.





#### State Unemployment Rates April 2023 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	-
State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	6.0
Nevada	5.4
District of Columbia	5.0
California	4.5
Delaware	4.3
Washington	4.3
Illinois	4.2
Pennsylvania	4.1
New York	4.0
Oregon	4.0
Texas	4.0
Connecticut	3.8
Michigan	3.8
Alaska	3.7
Kentucky	3.7
Ohio	3.7
Louisiana	3.6
New Jersey	3.5
New Mexico	3.5
Wyoming	3.5
Arizona	3.4
Mississippi	3.4
North Carolina	3.4
United States	3.4
Hawaii	3.3
Massachusetts	3.3
Tennessee	3.3
West Virginia	3.3
Georgia	3.1
South Carolina	3.1
Virginia	3.1
Indiana	3.0
Rhode Island	3.0
Kansas	2.9 2.9
Oklahoma Arkansas	2.9
Colorado	2.8
Minnesota	2.8
lowa	2.8
Florida	2.7
Idaho	2.6
Maryland	2.5
Missouri	2.5
Maine	2.3
Vermont	2.4
Wisconsin	2.4
Montana	2.3
Utah	2.3
Alabama	2.2
New Hampshire	2.1
North Dakota	2.1
Nebraska	2.0
South Dakota	1.9

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	Employment in Thousands Apr 23 Mar 23 Apr			% Change Total Employment Mar 23 Apr 22		
	Apr 23	Mar 23	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 23	
CAMPBELL COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.4	24.6	24.7	-0.8	-1.2	
TOTAL PRIVATE	19.8	20.0	20.0	-1.0	-1.0	
GOODS PRODUCING	7.8	7.8	7.8	0.0	0.0	
Natural Resources & Mining	5.6	5.7	5.4	-1.8	3.7	
Construction	1.7	1.6	1.9	6.2	-10.5	
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.6	16.8	16.9	-1.2	-1.8	
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.1	5.2	5.1	-1.9	0.0	
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Professional & Business Services	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	-6.3	
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.5	2.5	-4.0	-4.0	
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	
GOVERNMENT	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-2.1	

		nployment Thousands	in	% Change Total Employment Mar 23 Apr 22		
	Apr 23	Mar 23	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 23	
SWEETWATER COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.9	20.7	21.0	1.0	-0.5	
TOTAL PRIVATE	16.4	16.2	16.6	1.2	-1.2	
GOODS PRODUCING	6.3	6.2	6.2	1.6	1.6	
Natural Resources & Mining	3.2	3.3	3.2	-3.0	0.0	
Construction	1.7	1.5	1.7	13.3	0.0	
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7	
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.6	14.5	14.8	0.7	-1.4	
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.3	4.3	4.4	0.0	-2.3	
Information	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7	
Professional & Business Services	1.1	1.0	1.1	10.0	0.0	
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-4.3	
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	
GOVERNMENT	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3	

		nployment Thousands	% Change Total Employment Mar 23 Apr 22		
	Apr 23	Mar 23	Apr 22	Apr 23	Apr 23
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.1	22.5	19.9	-6.2	6.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.3	19.7	17.2	-7.1	6.4
GOODS PRODUCING	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.4	7.1
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.7	7.7
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.1	19.6	17.1	-7.7	5.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.6	2.8	2.5	-7.1	4.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7.0	8.3	6.3	-15.7	11.1
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7

#### State Unemployment Rates April 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	5.6
Nevada	5.1
District of Columbia	
California	4.3
Alaska	3.9
Delaware	3.9
Illinois	3.7
New York	3.7
Texas	3.7
Washington	3.5
West Virginia	3.4
Wyoming	3.3
Arizona	3.2
Kentucky	3.2
Louisiana	3.2
Ohio	3.2
Pennsylvania	3.2
New Mexico	3.1
North Carolina	3.1
United States	3.1
Connecticut	3.0
New Jersey	3.0
Michigan	2.9
Minnesota	2.9
Oregon	2.9
Kansas	2.8
Georgia	2.7
Hawaii	2.7 2.7
Mississippi Idaho	2.7
Indiana	2.6
Massachusetts	2.6
Tennessee	2.6
Virginia	2.5
Arkansas	2.4
Colorado	2.4
Missouri	2.4
Montana	2.4
Rhode Island	2.4
South Carolina	2.4
Florida	2.3
lowa	2.3
Maine	2.3
Wisconsin	2.3
Oklahoma	2.2
Utah	2.2
North Dakota	2.1
South Dakota	2.0
Vermont	1.9
Maryland	1.8
Nebraska	1.8
Alabama	1.7
New Hampshire	1.2

### **Economic Indicators**

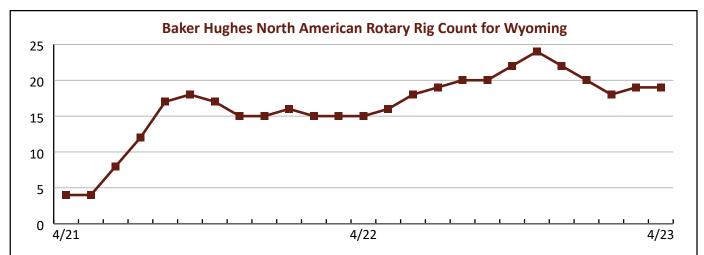
#### by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming rose from 15 in April 2022 to 19 in April 2023, a 26.7% increase.

	Apr 2023 (p)	Mar 2023 (r)	Apr 2022 (b)	Percent Month	Change Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	285,300	284,200	279,400	0.4	2.1
Wyoming State Government	14,300	14,500	14,400	-1.4	-0.7
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,300	47,200	46,600	0.2	1.5
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	39,000	38,900	38,300	0.3	1.8
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,676,000	8,137,000	7,532,000	-5.7	1.9
As a percent of all workers	4.8%	5.1%	4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	386,000	303,000	477,000	27.4	-19.1
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,692,000	4,205,000	3,822,000	-12.2	-3.4
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	8,297	10,571	7,490	-21.5	10.8
Benefits Paid	\$3,736,192	\$4,775,593	\$3,220,457	-21.8	16.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$450.31	\$451.76	\$429.97	-0.3	4.7
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)	202.4	204.0	200.4	0.5	
All Items	303.4	301.8	289.1	0.5 0.2	4.9
Food & Beverages	319.1 317.3	318.3 316.5	296.9 295.3	0.2	7.5 7.5
Housing Apparel	131.8	133.1	127.1	-1.0	3.6
Transportation	267.4	262.0	266.9	2.1	0.2
Medical Care	547.2	547.8	541.5	-0.1	1.1
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	136.4	135.7	129.9	0.5	5.0
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	145.4	145.5	143.2	0.0	1.6
Other Goods & Services	533.7	528.8	500.7	0.9	6.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	257.4	257.2	265.3	0.1	-3.0
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	129	157	227	-17.8	-43.2
Valuation	\$48,101,000	\$62,402,000	\$111,621,000	-22.9	-56.9
Single Family Homes	348,101,000 111	302,402,000 111	218	0.0	-49.1
Valuation	\$46,020,000	\$56,012,000	\$110,171,000	-17.8	-58.2
Casper MSA <sup>1</sup> Building Permits	7+0,020,000	\$30,012,000 6	24	16.7	-70.8
Valuation	, \$1,034,000	\$1,879,000	\$3,882,000	-45.0	-73.4
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	23	45	41	-48.9	-43.9
Valuation	\$5,875,000	\$7,160,000	\$9,272,000	-17.9	-36.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	19	19	15	0.0	26.7

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

<sup>1</sup>Metropolitan Statistical Area.



## Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

### by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

From April 2022 to April 2023, unemployment rates rose modestly in 11 counties, fell in nine counties, and remained unchanged in three counties.

	L	abor Force	r Force Employed Unemployed		d	Unemployment Rates						
REGION	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2022	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2022	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2022	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Jan 2022
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	46,053	45,868	44,952	44,360	43,659	43,300	1,693	2,209	1,652	3.7	4.8	3.7
Big Horn	5,157	5,075	5,200	4,969	4,831	4,990	188	244	210	3.6	4.8	4.0
Fremont	19,337	19,453	18,813	18,593	18,498	18,114	744	955	699	3.8	4.9	3.7
Hot Springs	2,302	2,320	2,248	2,235	2,230	2,190	67	90	58	2.9	3.9	2.6
Park	15,339	15,098	14,858	14,796	14,402	14,328	543	696	530	3.5	4.6	3.6
Washakie	3,918	3,922	3,833	3,767	3,698	3,678	151	224	155	3.9	5.7	4.0
NORTHEAST	51,824	51,858	50,174	50,277	49,898	48,622	1,547	1,960	1,552	3.0	3.8	3.1
Campbell	23,219	23,368	22,328	22,526	22,511	21,600	693	857	728	3.0	3.7	3.3
Crook	4,020	3,911	3,920	3,914	3,775	3,819	106	136	101	2.6	3.5	2.6
Johnson	4,285	4,245	4,174	4,136	4,063	4,037	149	182	137	3.5	4.3	3.3
Sheridan	16,426	16,467	15,938	15,913	15,786	15,458	513	681	480	3.1	4.1	3.0
Weston	3,874	3,867	3,814	3,788	3,763	3,708	86	104	106	2.2	2.7	2.8
SOUTHWEST	58,853	60,075	56,540	56,634	57,592	54,392	2,219	2,483	2,148	3.8	4.1	3.8
Lincoln	9,579	9,715	9,340	9,240	9,297	9,040	339	418	300	3.5	4.3	3.2
Sublette	3,907	3,870	3,863	3,753	3,684	3,698	154	186	165	3.9	4.8	4.3
Sweetwater	19,932	20,277	19,423	19,170	19,257	18,702	762	1,020	721	3.8	5.0	3.7
Teton	16,241	16,859	15,310	15,604	16,412	14,639	637	447	671	3.9	2.7	4.4
Uinta	9,194	9,354	8,604	8,867	8,942	8,313	327	412	291	3.6	4.4	3.4
SOUTHEAST	84,547	85,539	81,876	81,972	82,347	79,471	2,575	3,192	2,405	3.0	3.7	2.9
Albany	22,287	22,660	21,446	21,697	21,901	20,901	590	759	545	2.6	3.3	2.5
Goshen	6,709	6,628	6,558	6,519	6,406	6,400	190	222	158	2.8	3.3	2.4
Laramie	49,735	50,592	48,112	48,121	48,603	46,570	1,614	1,989	1,542	3.2	3.9	3.2
Niobrara	1,235	1,198	1,235	1,201	1,156	1,210	34	42	25	2.8	3.5	2.0
Platte	4,581	4,461	4,525	4,434	4,281	4,390	147	180	135	3.2	4.0	3.0
CENTRAL	55,184	55,808	53,755	53,288	53,413	51,742	1,896	2,395	2,013	3.4	4.3	3.7
Carbon	7,219	7,192	7,369	6,964	6,872	7,112	255	320	257	3.5	4.4	3.5
Converse	7,848	7,854	7,590	7,643	7,605	7,358	205	249	232	2.6	3.2	3.1
Natrona	40,117	40,762	38,796	38,681	38,936	37,272	1,436	1,826	1,524	3.6	4.5	3.9
STATEWIDE	296,460	299,146	287,297	286,530	286,909	277,527	9,930	12,237	9,770	3.3	4.1	3.4
Statewide Seaso	onally Adjuste	ed								3.5	3.7	3.2
U.S										3.1	3.6	3.3
U.S. Seasonally	Adjusted									3.4	3.5	3.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2023. Run Date 05/2023.

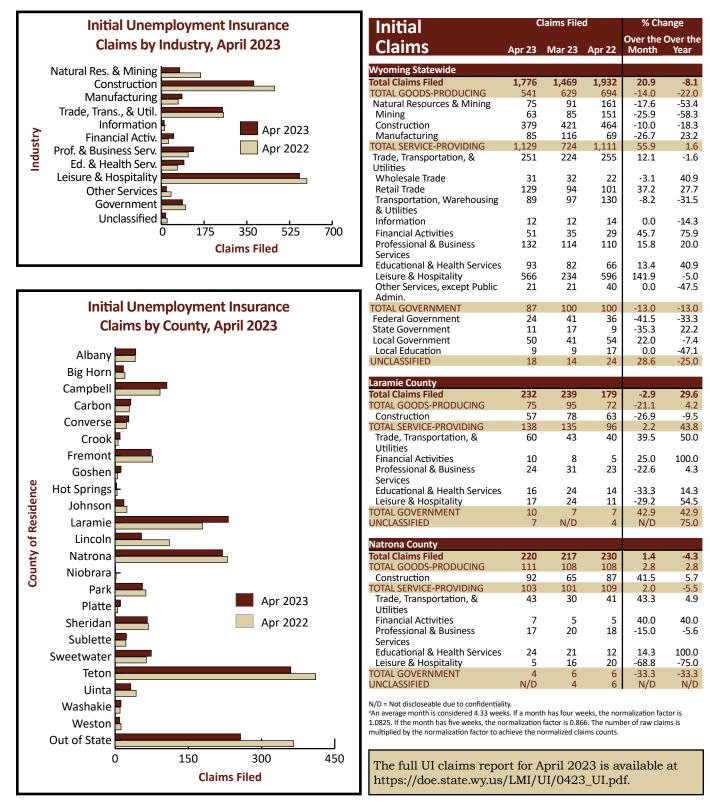
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

# Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

#### by: Laura Yetter, Senior Economist

There were 1,776 initial claims in April 2023, down from 1,932 from April 2022 (-156 or -8.1%).

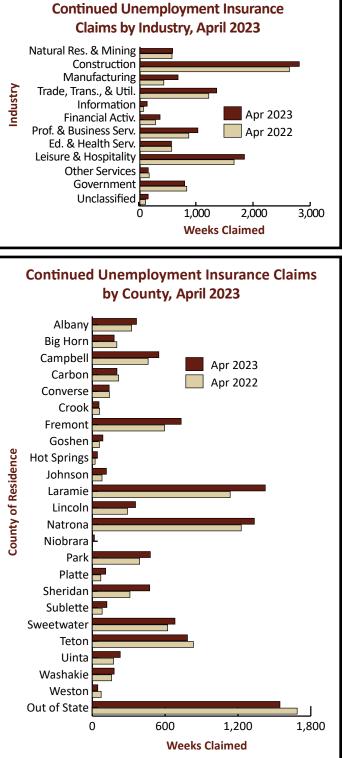


### Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Laura Yetter, Senior Economist

Wyoming had 10,317 continued weeks claimed in April 2023, up 11.3% over the year. The number of unique claimants increased from 3,502 to 3,795 (293, or 8.4%).

Continued	Claims Filed			% Change		
Claims	Apr 23	Mar 23	Apr 22	Over the Month	Over the Year	
Wyoming Statewide						
Total Weeks Claimed	10,317	12,419	9,273	-16.9	11.3	
Total Unique Claimants	3,795	3,474	3.502	9.2	8.4	
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	4,026	5,875	3,594	-31.5	12.0	
Natural Resources & Mining	571	686	561	-16.8	1.8	
Mining	487	552	488	-11.8	-0.2	
Oil & Gas Extraction	55	52	31	5.8	77.4	
Construction	2,787	4,410	2,614	-36.8	6.6	
Manufacturing TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	667 5,362	778 5.461	418 4.758	-14.3 -1.8	59.6 12.7	
Trade, Transportation, &	1,342	1,477	1,204	-9.1	11.5	
Utilities	1,512	1,177	1,201	5.1	11.5	
Wholesale Trade	214	227	167	-5.7	28.1	
Retail Trade	659	742	509	-11.2	29.5	
Transportation, Warehousing	468	507	527	-7.7	-11.2	
& Utilities						
Information	127	97	61	30.9	108.2	
Financial Activities	352	396	271	-11.1	29.9	
Professional & Business	1,013	1,499	855	-32.4	18.5	
Services						
Educational & Health Services	552	505	556	9.3	-0.7	
Leisure & Hospitality	1,828	1,274	1,646	43.5	11.1	
Other Services, except Public	146	209	162	-30.1	-9.9	
Admin. TOTAL GOVERNMENT	783	923	819	-15.2	4.4	
Federal Government	329	923 444	398	-15.2	-4.4 -17.3	
State Government	119	109	64	9.2	85.9	
Local Government	335	369	356	-9.2	-5.9	
Local Education	70	75	73	-6.7	-4.1	
UNCLASSIFIED	143	158	100	-9.5	43.0	
Laramie County						
Total Weeks Claimed	1,425	1,867	1,136	-23.7	25.4	
Total Unique Claimants	526	537	429	-2.0	22.6	
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	539	975	477	-44.7	13.0	
Construction	438	871	417	-49.7	5.0	
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	792	801	570	-1.1	38.9	
Trade, Transportation, &	260	239	177	8.8	46.9	
Utilities						
Financial Activities	57	37	53	54.1	7.5	
Professional & Business	168	234	148	-28.2	13.5	
Services						
Educational & Health Services	133	124	100	7.3	33.0	
Leisure & Hospitality	126	119	59	5.9	113.6	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED	60	64	49	-6.3	22.4	
UNCLASSIFIED	33	26	38	26.9	-13.2	
Natrona County						
Total Weeks Claimed	1,335	1,801	1,227	-25.9	8.8	
Total Unique Claimants	504	501	452	0.6	11.5	
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	618	859	479	-28.1	29.0	
Construction	441	660	388	-33.2	13.7	
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	665	897	694	-25.9	-4.2	
Trade, Transportation, &	217	264	231	-17.8	-6.1	
Utilities Einansial Activities	50	04	Γ1	-37.2	157	
Financial Activities Professional & Business	59 122	94 228	51 165	-37.2	15.7 -26.1	
Services	177	220	203	-40.5	-20.1	
Educational & Health Services	126	107	103	17.8	22.3	
Leisure & Hospitality	98	133	105	-26.3	-7.5	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	37	40	49	-7.5	-24.5	
UNCLASSIFIED	14	4	3	250.0	366.7	
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\*An average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.



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