

TRENDS

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Eligibility, 1993 and 2003: A Preliminary Report

by: *Sherry Wen, Senior Economist*

Nearly 77 percent of Wyoming workers would qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefits if they lost their jobs involuntarily, but only 20 percent of them would receive a 70 percent or higher wage replacement rate.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a government-sponsored earnings protection program that assists workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. It plays an important role in Wyoming's labor market. UI aids workforce development because, theoretically, it retains skilled workers in the state, who are then available for future training and employment. Almost all employers pay UI taxes. Last year 18,896 workers received UI benefits in Wyoming.

To qualify for UI benefits, an unemployed worker must meet monetary and nonmonetary eligibility criteria. Nonmonetary criteria require individuals (1) to have involuntarily separated from their employers or lost jobs through no

fault of their own; (2) to be able and available for work; and (3) to be actively seeking work. Monetary criteria require unemployed workers to have earned sufficient wage credits (a certain amount of wages) prior to losing their jobs.

Wyoming retained two monetary eligibility criteria between 1993 and 2003. The first required an unemployed worker to have earned at least eight

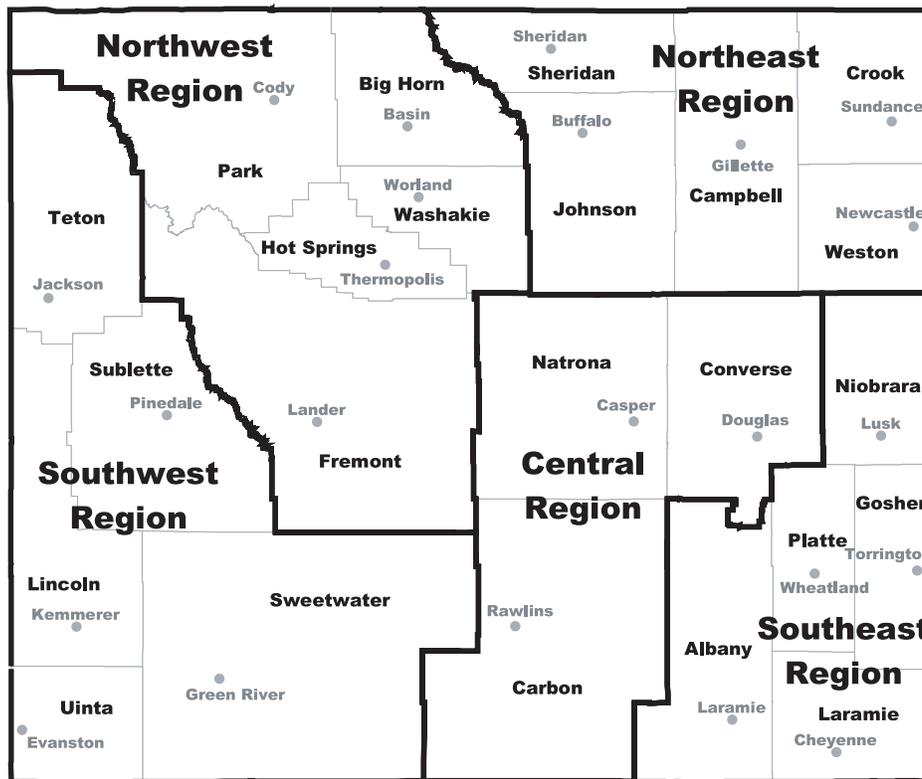
(Text continued on page 3)

Editor's Note: This article is part of a larger, upcoming study that will include demographics, changes in duration, and a more detailed analysis of the wage replacement rate. For a copy of the study, contact Krista Shinkle at (307) 473-3808 or kshink@state.wy.us. - ed.

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Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Cynthia Pomeroy, Director.

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ISSN 0512-4409

percent of the statewide annual average wage during the base period (Wyoming Employment Security Law, 2003). The minimum base period wage was \$1,650 in 1993 and \$2,300 in 2003. The second required that a worker's total base period wage be at least 1.4 times his/her high quarter wages in the base period.

The research presented here only focuses on monetary criteria. Our purpose is to determine whether monetary criteria still function as they did 10 years ago. We compared data from 1993 and 2003 using Wage Records and evaluated the impact of current UI laws on the eligibility of Wyoming workers for UI benefits. This study shows the comparative operational baselines when we assume that all employees who worked in Wyoming in the second quarter of 1993 or 2003 lost their jobs and applied for UI benefits in the third quarter. We seek to determine what has

happened in terms of UI eligibility. In particular, what proportion of Wyoming employees would have been able to receive UI benefits. Additionally, we explore what their benefit levels may have been and how long they would have qualified. The wage replacement ratio and UI eligibility by industry are also examined.

Employment Structure

A total of 214,402 individuals worked in Wyoming in second quarter 1993, while 232,229 worked in second quarter 2003. Table 1 shows between 1993 and 2003 there were substantial differences in growth between industries. Individuals working in Construction, one of the most seasonally volatile industries responsible for many UI claims, grew by 20.0 percent. Services, which comprise almost two-thirds of the statewide net growth, grew by 16.2 percent. Employment fell in

Table 1: Distribution of Wyoming Workers by Industry, Second Quarters 1993 and 2003

Industry	1993		2003		Change	
	Number	Industry Distribution	Number	Industry Distribution	Number	Percentage
Agriculture	2,587	1.2%	3,313	1.4%	726	28.1%
Mining	17,766	8.3%	16,858	7.3%	-908	-5.1%
Construction	14,242	6.6%	17,096	7.4%	2,854	20.0%
Manufacturing	10,066	4.7%	9,217	4.0%	-849	-8.4%
TCPU ^a	11,734	5.5%	11,046	4.8%	-688	-5.9%
Wholesale Trade	6,555	3.1%	7,558	3.3%	1,003	15.3%
Retail Trade	39,541	18.4%	41,935	18.1%	2,394	6.1%
FIRE ^b	8,136	3.8%	7,915	3.4%	-221	-2.7%
Services	65,896	30.7%	76,540	33.0%	10,644	16.2%
Public Administration ^c	14,446	6.7%	17,470	7.5%	3,024	20.9%
Unclassified ^d	23,433	10.9%	23,281	10.0%	-152	-0.6%
Total	214,402	100.0%	232,229	100.0%	17,827	8.3%

^aTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^bFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

^cExcludes federal government.

^dNo industry information available.

Mining (-5.1%); Manufacturing (-8.4%); Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (TCPU; -5.9%); and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE; -2.7%). However, the percentage distributions of individual workers among industries were similar between 1993 and 2003 (up or down within 1 percentage point), except Services which gained 2.3 percentage points in 2003.

minimum percentage of workers who would qualify for UI. Some workers move between states and would qualify for UI based on a combined wage claim. However, combined wage claims are outside the scope of this research.

For each year, about 10 percent of Wyoming workers were new workers during second quarter and had no base period wage credit at all; approximately 13 percent could not have met at least one of the two wage requirements, for a total of nearly 23 percent who would have been ineligible for UI. Figure 2 (see page 5) shows the industry distribution of the 13 percent of workers who would not have been monetarily eligible because

UI Eligibility

As Figure 1 illustrates, the proportion of workers who would have qualified to receive UI benefits was almost the same in 1993 (77.5%) as 2003 (76.9%). These results should be interpreted as a

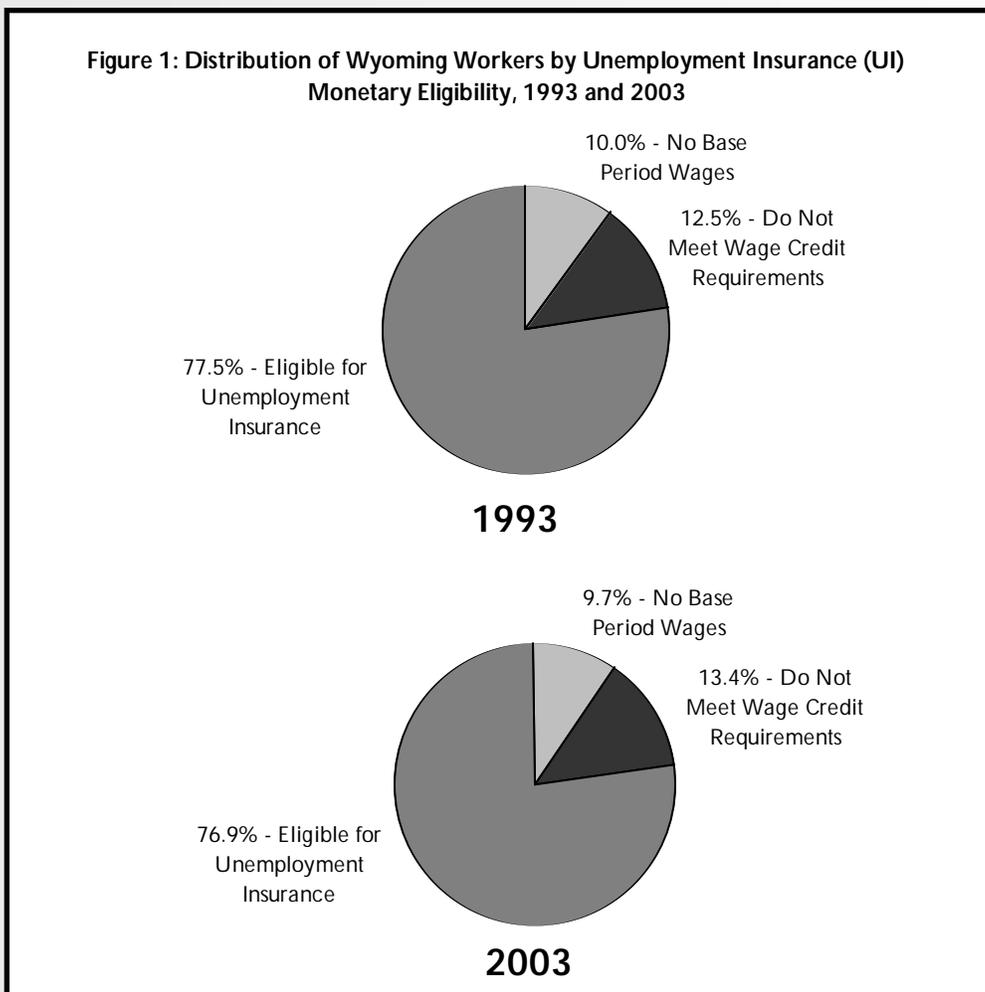
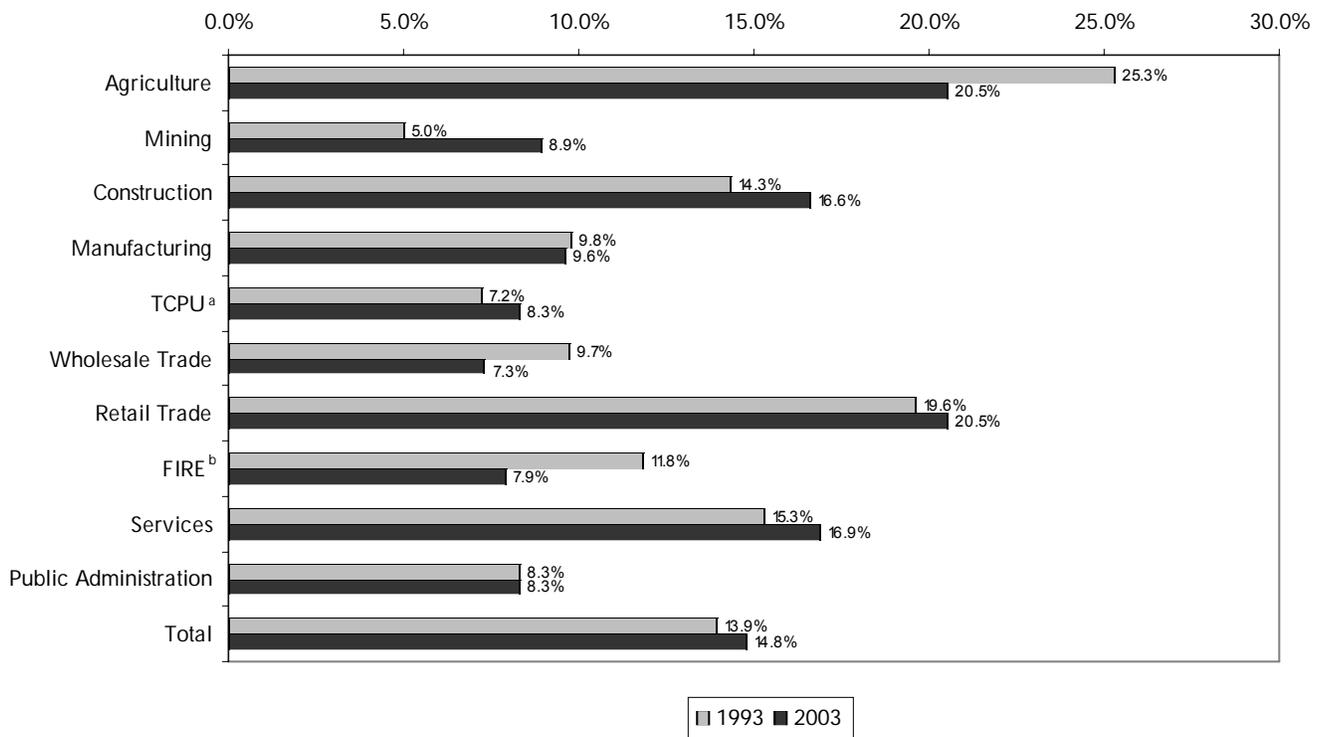


Figure 2: Percentage of Wyoming Workers Monetarily Ineligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) by Industry, 1993 and 2003



^aTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^bFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

they did not meet wage credit requirements. As Figure 2 indicates, UI eligibility varies significantly among industries. For example, 25.3 percent of Agriculture workers in 1993 would not have qualified for UI benefits. In contrast, only 5.0 percent of Mining workers in the same year would not have qualified. Over the 10-year period, Mining had the most significant increase in the percentage of UI ineligible workers (from 5.0% in 1993 to 8.9% in 2003), followed by Construction (14.3% to 16.6%), and TCPU (7.2% to 8.3%). The eligibility situation improved for Agriculture (with the percentage of ineligible workers

decreasing from 25.3% to 20.5%), FIRE (from 11.8% to 7.9%), and Wholesale Trade (from 9.7% to 7.3%). In general, lower paying industries such as Agriculture, Retail Trade, and Services had a larger percentage of workers who would have been monetarily ineligible for UI if they had lost jobs. However, these three industries accounted for more than three-fourths (or 77.2%) of the total growth in Wyoming workers from 1993 to 2003 and employed more than half (52.5%) of Wyoming workers in 2003. On the other hand, Mining and TCPU paid higher wages which resulted in more individuals qualifying for UI.

Potential UI Benefits Analyses

Our study shows that Wyoming had 166,044 workers (77.5%) in 1993 and 178,590 (76.9%) in 2003 who would have qualified for UI benefits if they had lost their jobs. However, UI benefits vary depending on how much a worker earned during the base period. By law, the weekly UI benefit that an eligible individual could receive is equal to four percent of his/her high quarter wage during the base period. The law limits the maximum weekly benefit to the previous year's statewide average weekly wage multiplied by 55 percent. It changes every year along with the statewide average weekly wage. The maximum weekly benefit was \$220 in 1993 and \$306 in 2003. The maximum benefit an individual could receive for one year starting from the effective date of the initial claim is 30 percent of his/her base period wage, or 26 times his/her weekly benefit, whichever is less. The potential UI duration, the number of weeks an individual is able to receive UI benefits, is decided by the maximum benefit divided by the weekly benefit, up to a maximum

of 26 weeks in a benefit year. Table 2 gives two examples of how base period wages determine an individual's UI benefits.

Generally, the greater the weekly benefit amount and the longer the duration of eligibility for receiving UI benefits, the easier it is for workers to overcome the financial difficulties of unemployment. Increased benefits also afford more flexibility to attend reemployment services and look for jobs.

To facilitate comparison, we converted the 1993 benefits to a 2003 dollar value based on the consumer price index (U.S. Department of Labor, 2004). As a result, the maximum UI benefit in Wyoming was \$281 per week with 26 weeks duration in 1993, and \$306 per week with 26 weeks in 2003. This represents an 8.9 percent real increase over 10 years.

Figure 3 (see page 7) shows that approximately 40 percent of Wyoming UI eligible workers would have qualified for the maximum UI benefit in 1993 or 2003 and that eligibility would have varied by

Table 2: Example of How Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits are Determined, 2003

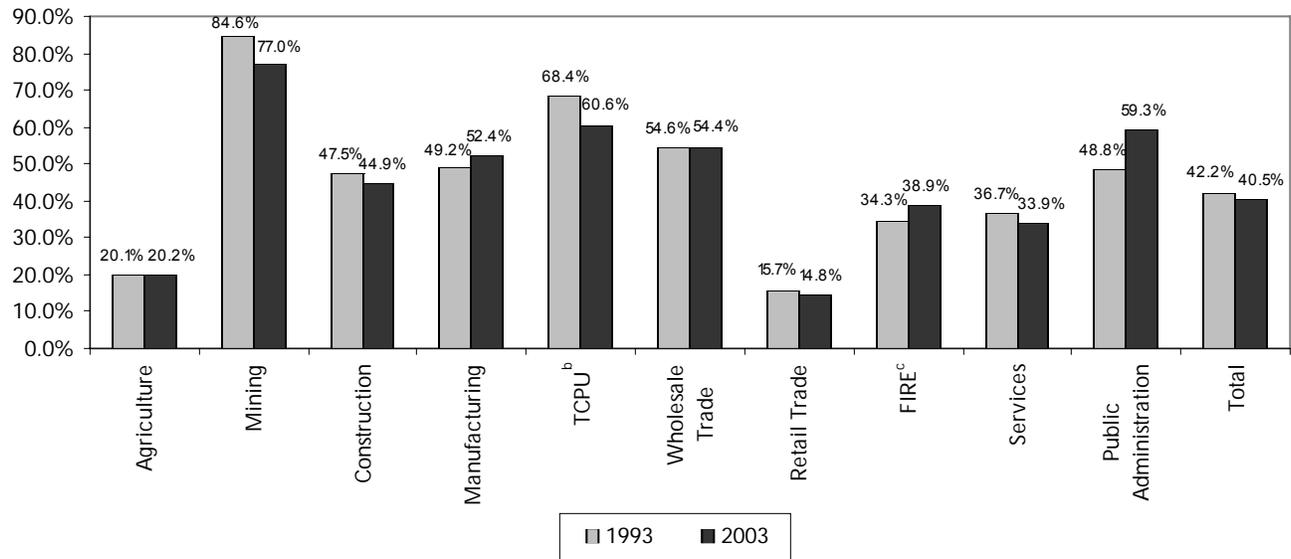
Worker	Base Period Wages				Total Base Period Wage	High Quarter Wage	Weekly Benefit Amount ^a	Maximum Benefit 1 ^b	Maximum Benefit 2 ^b	Final Maximum Benefit ^b	Weeks Eligible ^c
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4							
A	\$2,600	\$2,400	\$2,500	\$2,700	\$10,200	\$2,700	\$108	\$3,060	\$2,808	\$2,808	26
B	\$350	\$600	\$2,500	\$0	\$3,450	\$2,500	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible

^aThe weekly benefit is equal to four percent of an individual's high quarter wage or \$306 (the maximum amount allowed in 2003), whichever is less. In the example, Worker A would receive four percent of \$2,700 or \$108. Worker B is ineligible for UI benefit because the worker does not meet the requirement that a worker's total base period wage must be at least 1.4 times the high quarter wage. In the example, Worker B would have needed to earn at least \$3,500 (1.4 * \$2,500) to qualify for UI benefits.

^bThe maximum benefit an individual can receive is 30 percent of the worker's base period wage or 26 times the worker's weekly benefit, whichever is less. In the example, 30 percent of Worker A's base period wage is \$2,808. Worker A's weekly benefit times 26 is \$3,060. Therefore, Worker A's final maximum benefit is \$2,808 (the smaller of the two).

^cThe number of weeks an individual is able to receive UI benefits is equal to the maximum benefit divided by the weekly benefit, up to 26 weeks.

Figure 3: Percentage of Wyoming Workers Eligible for the Maximum Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit^a by Industry, 1993 and 2003



^aThe maximum UI benefit was \$281 (in 2003 dollars) per week and 26 weeks duration in 1993 and \$306 per week and 26 weeks duration in 2003.

^bTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^cFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

industry. In Mining, 77.0 percent of workers would have been eligible for the maximum UI benefit in 2003, while only 14.8 percent of workers in Retail Trade would have been eligible. The proportion of workers who would have qualified for the maximum UI benefit in each industry changed only slightly between 1993 and 2003, with the exception of Public Administration (up from 48.8% to 59.3%), TCPU (down from 68.4% to 60.6%), and Mining (down from 84.6% to 77.0%). Across all industries, it decreased by 1.7 percent (from 42.2% to 40.5%).

The proportion of workers eligible for the maximum UI duration fell by 5.6 percent from 1993 to 2003 (see Table 3, page 8). This decrease took place in all

industries with larger decreases occurring in Mining (-7.9%), TCPU (-7.4%), and Services (-7.2%).

The potential average weekly benefit also varies greatly across industries. For example, it was \$293 per week in Mining in 2003 but only \$181 per week in Retail Trade. The average weekly benefit increased in all industries from 1993 to 2003, but the pace of growth was different among industries. After adjusting the 1993 amounts for inflation, the smallest growth was 6.5 percent (from \$255 per week to \$272 per week) in TCPU and the largest was 13.2 percent (from \$239 per week to \$271 per week) in Public Administration.

Table 3: Distribution of Wyoming Workers by Potential Unemployment Insurance (UI) Duration and Industry, 1993 and 2003

	Percentage of UI Eligible Workers in 1993						Percentage of UI Eligible Workers in 2003						AWB % Change		
	Duration (Weeks of Eligibility)					Total	AWB	Duration (Weeks of Eligibility)						Total	AWB
	10-14	15 - 19	20 - 25	26				10-14	15 - 19	20 - 25	26				
Agriculture	12.8%	15.1%	24.8%	47.3%	100.0%	\$192	13.3%	15.5%	27.3%	43.9%	100.0%	\$212	10.4%		
Mining	3.1%	3.8%	5.8%	87.3%	100.0%	\$272	4.0%	6.5%	10.1%	79.4%	100.0%	\$293	7.9%		
Construction	10.0%	13.5%	17.0%	59.5%	100.0%	\$243	10.3%	14.7%	20.7%	54.2%	100.0%	\$263	8.1%		
Manufacturing	6.1%	9.7%	16.2%	68.0%	100.0%	\$234	5.0%	9.4%	18.8%	66.7%	100.0%	\$262	12.2%		
TCPU ^a	3.6%	6.1%	11.8%	78.5%	100.0%	\$255	4.6%	8.4%	15.9%	71.1%	100.0%	\$272	6.5%		
Wholesale Trade	3.9%	7.9%	14.6%	73.6%	100.0%	\$239	4.4%	7.6%	18.4%	69.7%	100.0%	\$264	10.7%		
Retail Trade	10.5%	17.9%	30.0%	41.6%	100.0%	\$161	11.5%	20.0%	32.6%	35.9%	100.0%	\$181	12.5%		
FIRE ^b	6.4%	8.9%	19.2%	65.6%	100.0%	\$215	4.5%	8.1%	22.3%	65.2%	100.0%	\$243	13.1%		
Services	7.7%	12.5%	22.4%	57.4%	100.0%	\$207	9.6%	15.8%	24.4%	50.2%	100.0%	\$229	10.6%		
Public Admin. ^c	4.4%	4.9%	9.3%	81.4%	100.0%	\$239	3.5%	5.2%	10.2%	81.0%	100.0%	\$271	13.2%		
Total	7.3%	11.4%	19.3%	62.0%	100.0%	\$216	8.1%	13.4%	22.1%	56.4%	100.0%	\$238	10.2%		

^aTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^bFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

^cExcludes federal government.

AWB - Average Weekly Benefit; adjusted for inflation and expressed in 2003 dollars.

Wage Replacement Rate

The wage replacement rate shows the proportion of the unemployed workers' pre-unemployment weekly wage that would have been replaced by the weekly UI benefit. A higher wage replacement rate means more stable purchasing power during unemployment. We used the average weekly wage during the second quarter of 1993 and 2003.

Only about 20 percent of Wyoming UI eligible workers would have been able to obtain a 70 percent or higher wage replacement rate had they lost jobs in third quarter 1993 or 2003 (see Figure 4, page 9). More than half of the workers in Mining in 1993 would have had less than a 30 percent wage replacement rate. This proportion decreased in 2003, but still exceeded 40 percent. Only about 20 percent of Mining workers would have had a wage replacement rate of 50 percent or higher. In contrast, more than

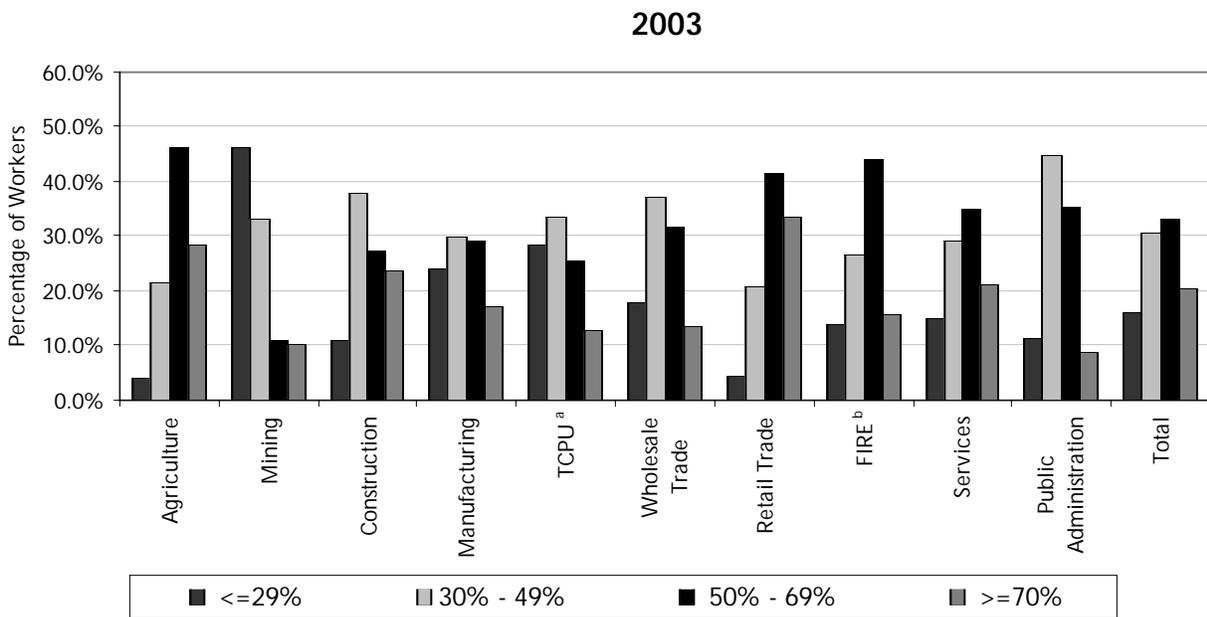
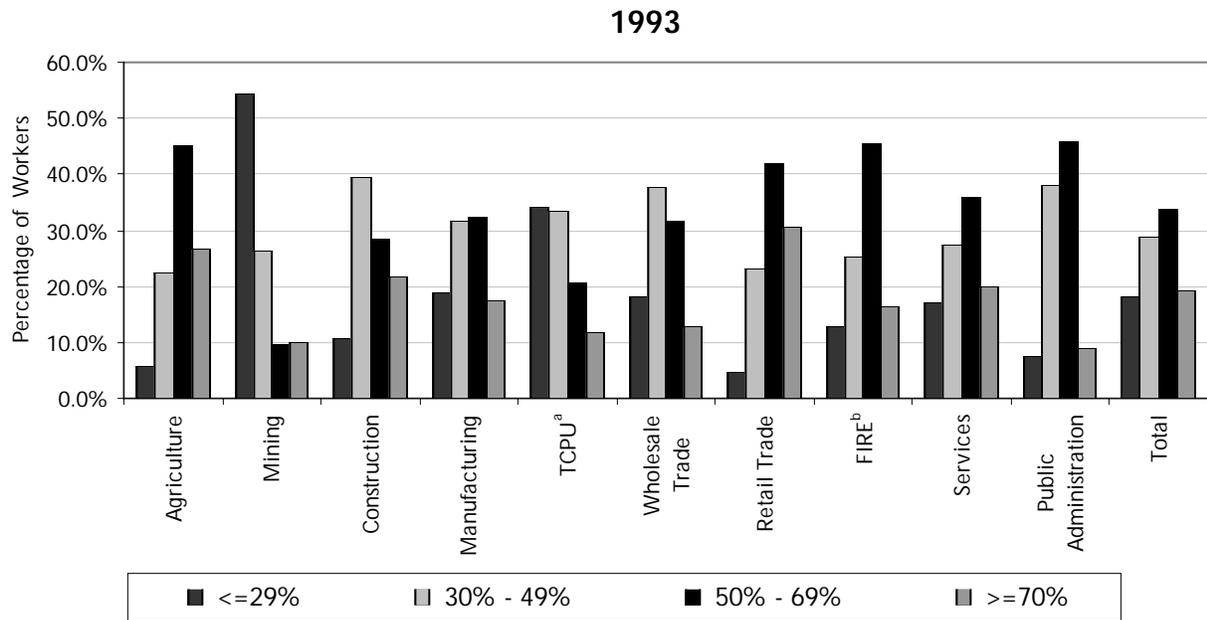
70 percent of workers in Retail Trade or Agriculture would have received a 50 percent or higher wage replacement and close to 30 percent would have obtained a wage replacement of 70 percent or higher. In general, the higher the weekly wage a worker earned before being laid off, the lower the wage replacement rate the individual would be able to receive.

Summary

Our study shows that in both 1993 and 2003 nearly 77 percent of Wyoming workers would qualify for UI benefits if they lost jobs involuntarily. However, only 20 percent of them would receive a 70 percent or higher wage replacement rate. In general, lower paying industries had a larger percentage of workers who would not qualify for UI benefits than higher paying industries, and workers in lower paying industries also had a much

(Text continued on page 10)

Figure 4: Distribution of Workers in Each Industry by Potential Weekly Wage Replacement Rate, 1993 and 2003



^aTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^bFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Note: As an example, in 1993 nearly 45 percent of workers in Agriculture would receive a UI benefit that replaced 50 to 69 percent of their previous wages.

smaller chance of receiving the maximum UI benefit than those working in higher paying industries. However, individual workers with high wages generally receive lower wage replacement rates due to the limitation of the weekly benefit amount. Statewide, the proportion of workers who would have been eligible for the maximum UI benefit decreased slightly from 1993 to 2003. The proportion of workers eligible for the maximum UI duration also fell. The decrease occurred in all industries with Mining, TCPU, and Services showing the largest decreases in maximum UI duration between 1993 and 2003. These findings show that the

current UI system is functioning slightly below the level it did in 1993.

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Forecasting Employment in Wyoming's Construction Industry

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Employment in Wyoming's Construction industry is highly seasonal, tending to peak in the late summer, then decline to a trough in February. In recent years, the seasonal employment peak has exceeded the trough by almost 5,000 jobs.

The Construction industry is very important to Wyoming's economy for several reasons. First, it accounts for a larger part of our state's economy than the U.S. average. In 2002, Construction employers provided 20,000 jobs in Wyoming or 8.1 percent of the state's nonfarm employment, while only 5.2 percent of U.S. nonfarm employment was in Construction. Second, Construction employment has grown dramatically since 1990. From 1990 to 2002, the industry has added 7,500 jobs or 60.0 percent. In contrast, nonfarm employment grew about 25 percent

during that same period. Finally, Wyoming's Construction industry pays higher wages than the statewide average (\$602 per week compared to the \$563 average of all industries during second quarter 2003). For more information on wages and benefits see the Wyoming Wage Survey (Hauf, 2002) and the Wyoming Benefits Survey (Cowan, 2004) publications. This article briefly reviews the types of firms included in the Construction industry and then develops a statistical model to explain and predict monthly employment levels.

Employment in Wyoming's Construction industry is highly seasonal. Employment tends to peak in the late summer (usually August), then declines to a trough in February. In recent years, the seasonal employment peak has exceeded the trough by almost 5,000 jobs.

The Construction industry has three main components or subindustries: construction of buildings (NAICS 236), heavy & civil engineering construction (237), and specialty trade contractors (238).

Construction of buildings includes both residential building construction (single family homes, apartment buildings, residential remodeling) and nonresidential building construction (industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings). This is the industry that includes many general contractors. In terms of Wyoming employment, construction of buildings is the smallest construction subindustry, providing 4,900 jobs in 2002.

Heavy & civil engineering construction firms build utility systems (including pipelines), highways, streets, and bridges. This industry accounted for 5,400 jobs in 2002.

Specialty trade contractors is the largest construction subindustry, with annual average employment of 9,800 in 2002. The subindustry includes firms involved in special trades such as framing contractors, roofing, electrical work, plumbing, painting, and flooring contractors. Often, these firms subcontract with the general contractors counted in construction of buildings.

The level of employment in heavy & civil engineering construction is influenced by federal highway spending, and the construction of pipelines and power plants. Heavy & civil engineering construction activity is highly irregular and hard to predict. Because the purpose of this article is to develop a model of construction employment that is predictable based on available monthly data (building permits, weather, etc.), heavy & civil engineering construction employment is excluded. Instead, the dependent variable consists only of construction of buildings and specialty trade contractors. This definition of construction is not overly influenced by large, infrequent construction projects such as pipelines or power plants. Also, employment levels in these two subindustries (construction of buildings and specialty trade contractors) tend to move together, because their firms often work on the same projects.

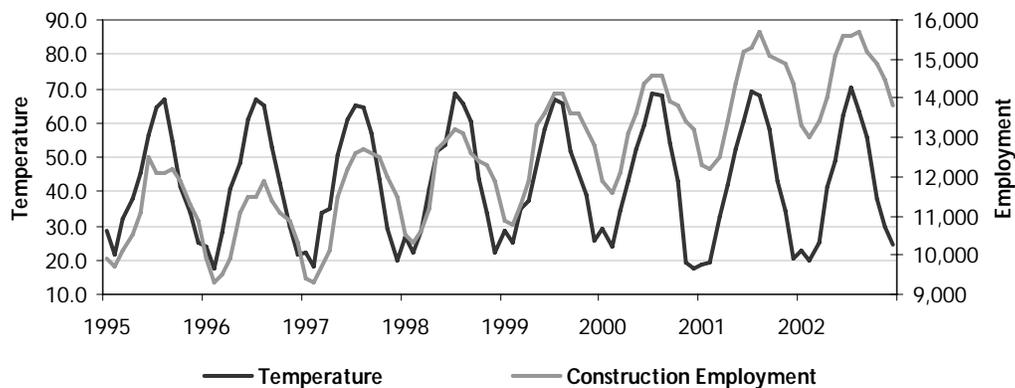
Data Model

We suggest that construction employment is largely a function of weather conditions in the state and home building activity.

The mean statewide temperature is readily available from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). From 1995 to 2002, Wyoming's mean statewide monthly temperature ranged from 17.6 degrees Fahrenheit (February 1996) to 70.4 degrees (July 2002). In general, temperature follows a regular seasonal pattern, peaking in July and hitting its lowest point in February (NCDC, 2003).

Figure 1 (see page 12) shows temperature and Wyoming construction

Figure 1: Wyoming Mean Temperature^a and Wyoming Construction Employment,^b
1995-2002



^aWyoming Mean Monthly Temperature, National Climatic Data Center (NCDC).

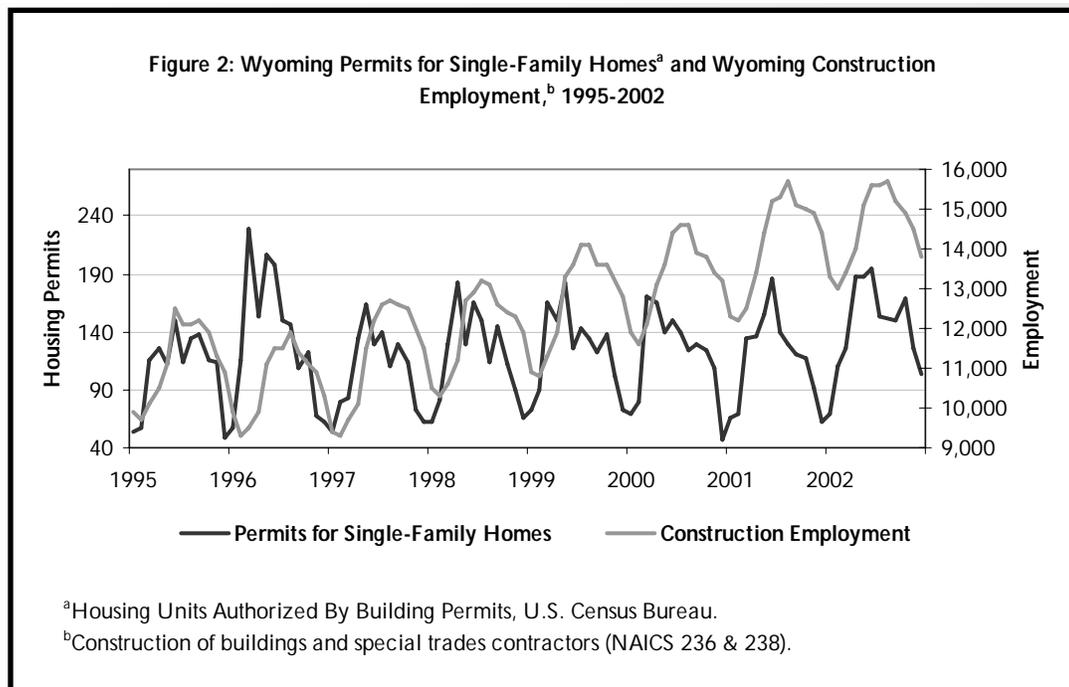
^bConstruction of buildings and special trades contractors (NAICS 236 & 238).

employment. The seasonal patterns are quite similar, suggesting that construction employment is higher in months with higher temperatures. The temperature variable also may serve as a proxy for the number of daylight hours each day, another important factor affecting construction work. Obviously, much construction work is difficult or impossible after dark or when temperatures are below freezing. Towards the end of the series, employment increases without a corresponding increase in temperature. This difference may be accounted for by an increase in construction activity unrelated to the weather.

The U.S. Census Bureau publishes estimates of residential building permits each month. For this model we use the number of permits issued for single-family homes. Other Census data include the total number of housing units authorized, reflecting the number of apartments and other multi-family

housing units. The number of overall units is much more volatile than the single-family home series, as apartments tend to be built infrequently and in large complexes. The monthly data series begins with January 1995, which is used as the beginning of our modeled time series (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

Obtaining a building permit is one of the first steps in building, and construction work often stretches on for months after the issuance of the permit. Because of this, we include lags of the permit data in our model. Figure 2 (see page 13) shows permits for single-family homes and construction employment in Wyoming. Especially in earlier years, the lag between permitting and employment is noticeable. As with the temperature data in Figure 1, employment increases in later years without a corresponding increase in permits. Two possible scenarios could help explain the difference between employment and permits toward the end of the series. As



Wyoming's housing stock ages, a higher proportion of construction employment could be associated with remodeling work, which is not included in the census permit data. Alternatively, an increase in commercial construction could skew the results, as it is not included in the census data.

Results

We use Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression to estimate the effect of changes in temperature and building permits on construction employment in Wyoming. Linear regression is a commonly used statistical technique in which researchers are able to estimate the effect of one independent variable on a dependent variable, while holding the other independent variables constant. The Table (see page 14) summarizes results of the regression model. The adjusted R^2 is 0.638, suggesting that the model explains over three-fifths of the

over-the-month change in construction employment.

The results of the model indicate that an increase of one degree Fahrenheit temperature will be associated with an employment increase of 10.4 jobs. For example, in a typical year, the average temperature will increase from 40.5 degrees in April to 50.4 degrees in May. Holding building permits constant, this temperature increase would be associated with an employment increase of 103.0 jobs.

The issuance of a permit to build a home is associated with 5.4 construction jobs that month. The next month, it is associated with an additional 3.4 jobs. Three months after the permit is issued, employment decreases by an estimated 7.7 jobs. A brief example will illustrate the effect of permits on employment across a few months. Suppose 100 permits were issued to build single-family

Table: Over-the-Month Employment Change in Wyoming Construction^a Regressed on Temperature, Building Permits, and Lagged Building Permits

Variable	Coefficient (SE)	T-Value
Intercept	-553.459 (172.74)	-3.204
Mean Temperature for Wyoming	10.426** (3.72)	2.802
Single-Family Home Building Permits for Wyoming	5.357** (1.38)	3.885
SFH Permits Lagged one month	3.448* (1.46)	2.365
SFH Permits Lagged three months	-7.747** (1.15)	-6.747
(DW=2.194)		
(Adjusted R squared=.638)		
(n=93)		
(F=41.487)		

^aConstruction of buildings and special trades contractors (NAICS 236 & 238).

*Significant at the 95 percent level ($p < .05$).

**Significant at the 99 percent level ($p < .01$).

homes in May. Holding temperature constant, we would expect construction employment to increase by 540 jobs in May, 340 jobs in June, and then fall by 770 jobs in August. Of course, permits are issued each month, so construction employment in any given month is a function of the current temperature, as well as the permits issued during the previous three months.

Figure 3 (see page 15) shows the actual change in construction employment compared to the predicted changes for January 2001 through June 2003. The predicted changes do not track perfectly with the actual employment changes, but they do exhibit the same general pattern.

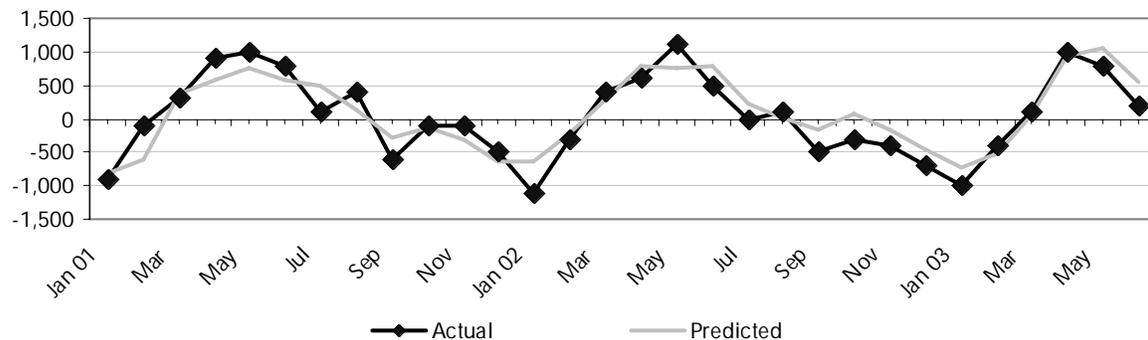
Discussion

Our model suggests that construction employment in Wyoming has a positive

relationship with temperature and building permits. In particular, employment rises during the month the permit is issued, the succeeding month, and then falls the third month following issuance of the permit. Results using actual data from 1995 through 2002 show that the model has significant predictive power.

Of course there are many other factors influencing construction activity and employment. Building permits themselves are a function of long-term interest rates and population and income growth. Population growth in Wyoming is largely driven by the relative strength of our economy compared to other states. When our economy is growing rapidly and other states are not (as in the early 1980s), net in-migration provides demand for new housing stock. Construction employment can even be affected by court decisions,

Figure 3: Actual and Predicted Over-the-Month Change in Construction Employment^a in Wyoming, January 2001-June 2003



^aConstruction of buildings and special trades contractors (NAICS 236 & 238).

as seen in the Wyoming supreme court ruling regarding school capital construction. Each of these areas represents a potential direction for new research.

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What's New?

Summary data for the **2002 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses** and data for the **2002 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries** are now available at:

<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/OSH/toc.htm>
and
<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/CFOI/toc.htm>

3,300 New Jobs Created in December

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming job growth continued to trend upward in December (1.3%) as 3,300 new jobs were created while U.S. nonfarm employment was essentially unchanged from a year earlier (-62,000 jobs or 0.0%). Job gains in Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) appear responsible for a large part of Wyoming's job growth. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was stable at 4.0 percent and remained well below the U.S. rate of 5.7 percent.

From November to December, the level of nonfarm employment was virtually unchanged (-100 jobs or 0.0%). Job losses in Construction (-800 jobs or -4.0%) and Transportation & Utilities (-300 jobs or -2.6%) were mostly offset by gains in Retail Trade (200 jobs or 0.7%) and Leisure & Hospitality (700 jobs or 2.6%).

From December 2002, nonfarm employment increased by 3,300 jobs or 1.3 percent. This level of over-the-year growth is the highest seen since May 2002. Natural Resources & Mining added 600 jobs or 3.4 percent. After falling for over two years, the number of Manufacturing jobs appears to have stabilized with employment unchanged

from its level a year ago. Substantial job gains occurred in Transportation & Utilities (400 jobs or 3.6%), Educational & Health Services (500 jobs or 2.5%), and Government (1,300 jobs or 2.0%). Job losses continued in Construction (-500 jobs or -2.5%).

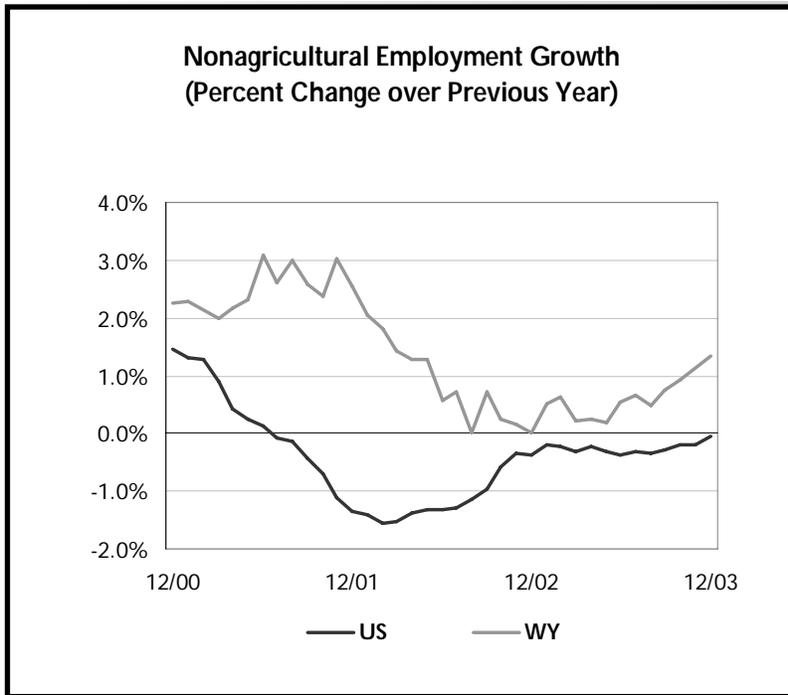
Across Wyoming's 23 counties, most unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal patterns and increased from November to December. The largest increases were seen in Lincoln County (up from 4.7% in November to 5.8% in December), Big Horn County (up from 3.4% to 4.4%), and Fremont County (up from 5.3% to 6.3%). The two counties where unemployment decreased were Teton County (down from 5.6% in November to 3.4% in December) and Niobrara County (down from 3.9% to 3.7%).

From December 2002, unemployment rates in most counties followed the statewide trend and decreased slightly. The largest over-the-year decrease occurred in Niobrara County where unemployment fell from 6.2 percent in December 2002 to 3.7 percent in December 2003.



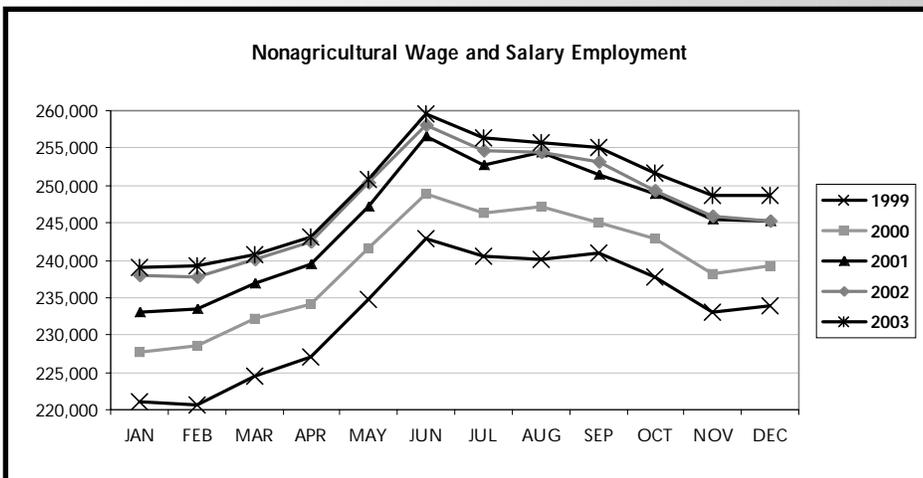
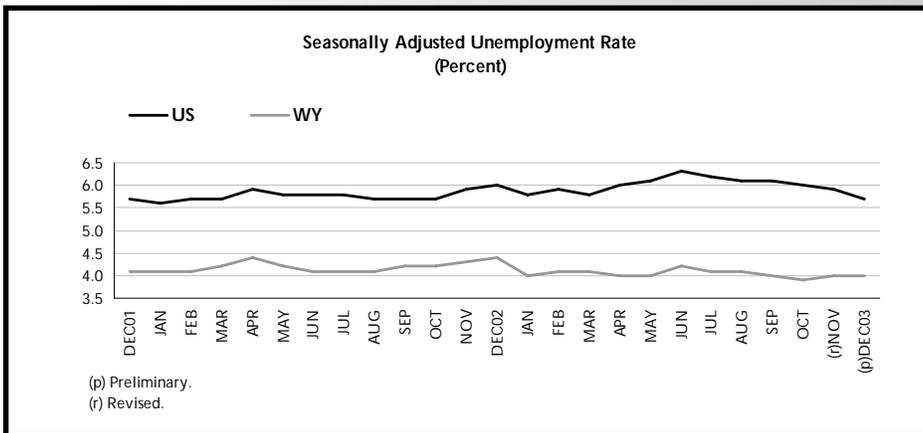
Now Available from Research & Planning
**2002 Regional and County Occupational
Wage Projections (EDS)**

Located on our website at <http://doe.stste.wy.us/LMI/20024pub/TOC000.htm>



State Unemployment Rates December 2003 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Alaska	7.7
Michigan	7.2
Oregon	7.2
Washington	6.8
District of Columbia	6.6
California	6.4
Illinois	6.4
Texas	6.4
New York	6.2
North Carolina	6.1
South Carolina	6.1
Ohio	6.0
Alabama	5.8
Colorado	5.8
Louisiana	5.8
Massachusetts	5.7
New Mexico	5.7
Tennessee	5.7
United States	5.7
Arkansas	5.5
Kentucky	5.4
New Jersey	5.3
West Virginia	5.3
Wisconsin	5.2
Oklahoma	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
Indiana	5.0
Maine	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Missouri	5.0
Rhode Island	5.0
Arizona	4.8
Idaho	4.8
Kansas	4.8
Florida	4.7
Minnesota	4.7
Utah	4.7
Montana	4.5
Iowa	4.4
Maryland	4.4
Nevada	4.4
Delaware	4.1
Georgia	4.1
Hawaii	4.1
New Hampshire	4.1
Vermont	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Nebraska	3.7
Virginia	3.6
South Dakota	3.4
North Dakota	3.2



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment^a

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

From December 2002, nonfarm employment increased by 3,300 jobs or 1.3 percent. This level of over-the-year growth is the highest seen since May 2002.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Nov 03		Dec 02		Nov 03	Dec 02	Nov 03		Dec 02		Nov 03	Dec 02			
	Dec03(p)	Nov03(r)	Dec02(b)	Dec 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Dec 02		Dec03(p)	Nov03(r)	Dec02(b)	Dec 03	Dec 02		
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	248.6	248.7	245.3	0.0	1.3			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	39.0	39.2	39.2	-0.5	-0.5		
TOTAL PRIVATE	183.6	183.8	181.6	-0.1	1.1			TOTAL PRIVATE	26.7	26.9	27.0	-0.7	-1.1		
GOODS PRODUCING	47.0	48.0	46.9	-2.1	0.2			GOODS PRODUCING	3.5	3.7	4.1	-5.4	-14.6		
Natural Resources & Mining	18.3	18.4	17.7	-0.5	3.4			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.0	2.2	2.6	-9.1	-23.1		
Mining	18.1	18.2	17.6	-0.5	2.8			Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0		
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2			SERVICE PROVIDING	35.5	35.5	35.1	0.0	1.1		
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.6	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.6	8.7	8.5	-1.1	1.2		
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Support Activities for Mining	7.3	7.4	6.9	-1.4	5.8			Retail Trade	5.9	5.9	5.8	0.0	1.7		
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	5.2	5.2	4.9	0.0	6.1			Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0		
Construction	19.2	20.0	19.7	-4.0	-2.5			Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6		
Construction of Buildings	4.2	4.3	5.1	-2.3	-17.6			Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-3.0		
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	5.2	5.8	5.0	-10.3	4.0			Educational & Health Services	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7		
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.8	9.9	9.6	-1.0	2.1			Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.5		
Manufacturing	9.5	9.6	9.5	-1.0	0.0			Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0		
Durable Goods	4.5	4.6	4.8	-2.2	-6.3			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.3	12.3	12.2	0.0	0.8		
Non-Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.7	0.0	6.4			Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0		
SERVICE PROVIDING	201.6	200.7	198.4	0.4	1.6			State Government	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0		
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	49.0	49.1	48.2	-0.2	1.7			Local Government	5.9	5.8	5.8	1.7	1.7		
Wholesale Trade	7.1	7.1	6.9	0.0	2.9										
Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0			NATRONA COUNTY							
Retail Trade	30.5	30.3	30.3	0.7	0.7			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	34.3	34.0	33.8	0.9	1.5		
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.2	4.2	-2.4	-2.4			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.5	28.4	27.9	0.4	2.2		
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.4	2.4	2.6	0.0	-7.7			GOODS PRODUCING	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8		
Food & Beverage Stores	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0			Natural Resources & Mining	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0		
Grocery Stores	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0			Construction	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0		
Gasoline Stations	4.0	4.2	4.1	-4.8	-2.4			Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0		
General Merchandise Stores	6.2	6.1	6.2	1.6	0.0			SERVICE PROVIDING	28.6	28.3	28.2	1.1	1.4		
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.3	8.2	8.0	1.2	3.8		
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	11.4	11.7	11.0	-2.6	3.6			Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5		
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0			Retail Trade	4.9	4.8	4.7	2.1	4.3		
Transportation & Warehousing	9.3	9.6	8.9	-3.1	4.5			Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0		
Truck Transportation	3.5	3.6	3.3	-2.8	6.1			Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0		
Information	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0			Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	10.3	10.2	10.1	1.0	2.0			Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0		
Finance & Insurance	6.8	6.8	6.7	0.0	1.5			Educational & Health Services	4.3	4.3	4.1	0.0	4.9		
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.5	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.9			Leisure & Hospitality	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0		
Professional & Business Services	15.2	15.1	15.0	0.7	1.3			Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0		
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.2	7.1	7.2	1.4	0.0			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.8	5.6	5.9	3.6	-1.7		
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.2	2.0	0.0	10.0			Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	-14.3		
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	7.3	7.3	7.1	0.0	2.8			Local Government	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.7	0.0		
Educational & Health Services	20.7	20.6	20.2	0.5	2.5			Local Education	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	0.0		
Educational	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.0	-10.5										
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.0	18.9	18.3	0.5	3.8										
Ambulatory Health Care	7.1	7.0	6.7	1.4	6.0										
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9										
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0										
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3										
Social Assistance	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.0	4.4										
Leisure & Hospitality	27.9	27.2	27.6	2.6	1.1										
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.8	0.0										
Accommodation & Food Services	25.7	25.1	25.4	2.4	1.2										
Accommodation	8.8	8.1	8.8	8.6	0.0										
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	16.9	17.0	16.6	-0.6	1.8										
Other Services	9.3	9.3	9.4	0.0	-1.1										
Repair & Maintenance	3.2	3.0	3.0	6.7	6.7										
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.0	64.9	63.7	0.2	2.0										
Federal Government	7.4	7.4	7.2	0.0	2.8										
State Government	15.2	15.1	14.8	0.7	2.7										
State Govt. Education	6.5	6.5	5.9	0.0	10.2										
Local Government	42.4	42.4	41.7	0.0	1.7										
Local Govt. Education	22.7	22.7	22.3	0.0	1.8										
Hospitals	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	-1.8										

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	Dec03(p)	Nov03(r)	Dec02(b)		Dec 03
			Dec 03	Dec 03	
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.1	21.2	21.0	-0.5	0.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.4	17.5	17.4	-0.6	0.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.3	8.4	8.5	-1.2	-2.4
Natural Resources & Mining	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	1.8	1.9	2.0	-5.3	-10.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	12.8	12.8	12.5	0.0	2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.0	4.0	3.8	0.0	5.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	2.8
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.1	20.5	19.2	-2.0	4.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.7	16.2	14.8	-3.1	6.1
GOODS PRODUCING	6.0	6.5	5.7	-7.7	5.3
Natural Resources & Mining	3.6	3.6	3.3	0.0	9.1
Construction	1.2	1.7	1.2	-29.4	0.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.1	14.0	13.5	0.7	4.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.0	25.0
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.4	4.3	4.4	2.3	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.6	14.3	16.0	9.1	-2.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.3	12.1	13.7	9.9	-2.9
GOODS PRODUCING	2.3	2.4	2.7	-4.2	-14.8
Nat. Res., Mining & Construction	2.1	2.2	2.4	-4.5	-12.5
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-33.3
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.3	11.9	13.3	11.8	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.5	2.3	2.5	8.7	0.0
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.5	1.6	1.4	-6.3	7.1
Educational & Health Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	4.8	3.6	4.9	33.3	-2.0
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.2	2.3	4.5	0.0

State Unemployment Rates December 2003 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.1
Alaska	8.0
Oregon	7.0
Washington	6.8
Michigan	6.7
Illinois	6.3
District of Columbia	6.2
California	6.1
New York	6.1
South Carolina	5.9
North Carolina	5.8
Texas	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
Colorado	5.6
Ohio	5.5
Alabama	5.4
United States	5.4
Arkansas	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
New Mexico	5.3
Tennessee	5.2
Idaho	5.1
Kentucky	5.1
New Jersey	5.1
West Virginia	5.1
Montana	5.0
Oklahoma	5.0
Indiana	4.9
Maine	4.9
Missouri	4.8
Rhode Island	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Mississippi	4.7
Arizona	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.6
Connecticut	4.5
Kansas	4.5
Minnesota	4.5
Florida	4.4
Iowa	4.4
Nevada	4.3
Utah	4.2
Wyoming	4.2
Maryland	4.1
Georgia	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Hawaii	3.8
Delaware	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Nebraska	3.5
South Dakota	3.5
North Dakota	3.3
Virginia	3.3

Economic Indicators

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Consumer prices increased 1.9 percent from their December 2002 level.

	Dec 2003 (p)	Nov 2003 (r)	Dec 2002 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	274,674	275,855	267,606	-0.4	2.6
Unemployed	11,530	10,438	12,169	10.5	-5.3
Employed	263,144	265,417	255,437	-0.9	3.0
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.2%/4.0%	3.8%/4.0%	4.5%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.4%/5.7%	5.6%/5.9%	5.7%/6.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,260,000	7,302,000	7,650,000	-0.6	-5.1
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.3%	5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	433,000	457,000	403,000	-5.3	7.4
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,833,000	4,682,000	4,385,000	3.2	10.2
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,012.48	\$996.36	\$917.60	1.6	10.3
Average Weekly Hours	44.8	44.5	43.1	0.7	3.9
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$834.47	\$821.72	\$776.15	1.6	7.5
Average Weekly Hours	44.6	45.1	43.9	-1.1	1.6
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$647.80	\$657.71	\$709.97	-1.5	-8.8
Average Weekly Hours	41.0	40.7	40.5	0.7	1.2
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$664.83	\$653.84	\$644.78	1.7	3.1
Average Weekly Hours	41.5	41.2	41.2	0.7	0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	20,689	12,751	22,435	62.3	-7.8
Benefits Paid	\$4,791,202	\$2,912,733	\$5,096,680	64.5	-6.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$231.58	\$228.43	\$227.18	1.4	1.9
State Insured Covered Jobs	225,834	225,818	222,183	0.0	1.6
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.1%	1.6%	2.3%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	184.3	184.5	180.9	-0.1	1.9
Housing	184.1	182.9	177.8	0.7	3.5
Apparel	185.1	185.1	181.1	0.0	2.2
Transportation	119.0	123.1	121.5	-3.3	-2.1
Medical Care	154.7	155.7	154.2	-0.6	0.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	302.1	300.8	291.3	0.4	3.7
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	107.7	107.8	106.5	-0.1	1.1
Other Goods & Services	110.9	110.8	109.2	0.1	1.6
Other Goods & Services	300.2	300.0	295.8	0.1	1.5
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	139.4	138.9	132.9	0.4	4.9
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	124	154	125	-19.5	-0.8
Valuation	\$21,020,000	\$21,121,000	\$16,377,000	-0.5	28.4
Single Family Homes	117	115	104	1.7	12.5
Valuation	\$20,596,000	\$18,966,000	\$15,392,000	8.6	33.8
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	62	63	36	-1.6	72.2

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, most unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal patterns and increased from November to December.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Dec 2003 (p)	Nov 2003 (r)	Dec 2002 (b)									
NORTHWEST	46,049	46,547	45,173	43,646	44,502	42,496	2,403	2,045	2,677	5.2	4.4	5.9
Big Horn	5,755	5,843	5,635	5,501	5,645	5,340	254	198	295	4.4	3.4	5.2
Fremont	18,746	18,924	18,402	17,561	17,913	17,084	1,185	1,011	1,318	6.3	5.3	7.2
Hot Springs	2,245	2,276	2,250	2,162	2,209	2,139	83	67	111	3.7	2.9	4.9
Park	14,823	14,976	14,409	14,086	14,332	13,652	737	644	757	5.0	4.3	5.3
Washakie	4,480	4,528	4,477	4,336	4,403	4,281	144	125	196	3.2	2.8	4.4
NORTHEAST	47,531	47,976	46,703	45,755	46,460	44,816	1,776	1,516	1,887	3.7	3.2	4.0
Campbell	22,949	23,074	22,506	22,164	22,392	21,690	785	682	816	3.4	3.0	3.6
Crook	2,848	2,950	2,816	2,717	2,829	2,703	131	121	113	4.6	4.1	4.0
Johnson	3,880	3,974	3,824	3,759	3,876	3,691	121	98	133	3.1	2.5	3.5
Sheridan	14,590	14,673	14,288	13,951	14,150	13,604	639	523	684	4.4	3.6	4.8
Weston	3,264	3,305	3,269	3,164	3,213	3,128	100	92	141	3.1	2.8	4.3
SOUTHWEST	54,767	54,594	53,220	52,558	52,359	50,572	2,209	2,235	2,648	4.0	4.1	5.0
Lincoln	6,721	6,817	6,616	6,334	6,494	6,146	387	323	470	5.8	4.7	7.1
Sublette	3,458	3,550	3,342	3,354	3,456	3,255	104	94	87	3.0	2.6	2.6
Sweetwater	21,021	21,229	20,076	20,263	20,520	19,103	758	709	973	3.6	3.3	4.8
Teton	11,829	11,169	11,713	11,429	10,548	11,237	400	621	476	3.4	5.6	4.1
Uinta	11,738	11,829	11,473	11,178	11,341	10,831	560	488	642	4.8	4.1	5.6
SOUTHEAST	75,539	75,812	73,366	72,801	73,377	70,826	2,738	2,435	2,540	3.6	3.2	3.5
Albany	20,316	20,187	19,218	19,906	19,835	18,843	410	352	375	2.0	1.7	2.0
Goshen	6,153	6,341	6,156	5,974	6,189	5,958	179	152	198	2.9	2.4	3.2
Laramie	43,697	43,783	42,600	41,817	42,115	40,920	1,880	1,668	1,680	4.3	3.8	3.9
Niobrara	1,071	1,122	1,138	1,031	1,078	1,067	40	44	71	3.7	3.9	6.2
Platte	4,302	4,379	4,254	4,073	4,160	4,038	229	219	216	5.3	5.0	5.1
CENTRAL	50,786	50,926	49,142	48,384	48,719	46,726	2,402	2,207	2,416	4.7	4.3	4.9
Carbon	7,859	8,050	7,692	7,393	7,641	7,331	466	409	361	5.9	5.1	4.7
Converse	6,191	6,357	6,179	5,931	6,096	5,820	260	261	359	4.2	4.1	5.8
Natrona	36,736	36,519	35,271	35,060	34,982	33,575	1,676	1,537	1,696	4.6	4.2	4.8
STATEWIDE	274,674	275,855	267,606	263,144	265,417	255,437	11,530	10,438	12,169	4.2	3.8	4.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.0	4.0	4.4
U.S.....										5.4	5.6	5.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.7	5.9	6.0

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/03. Run Date 01/04.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

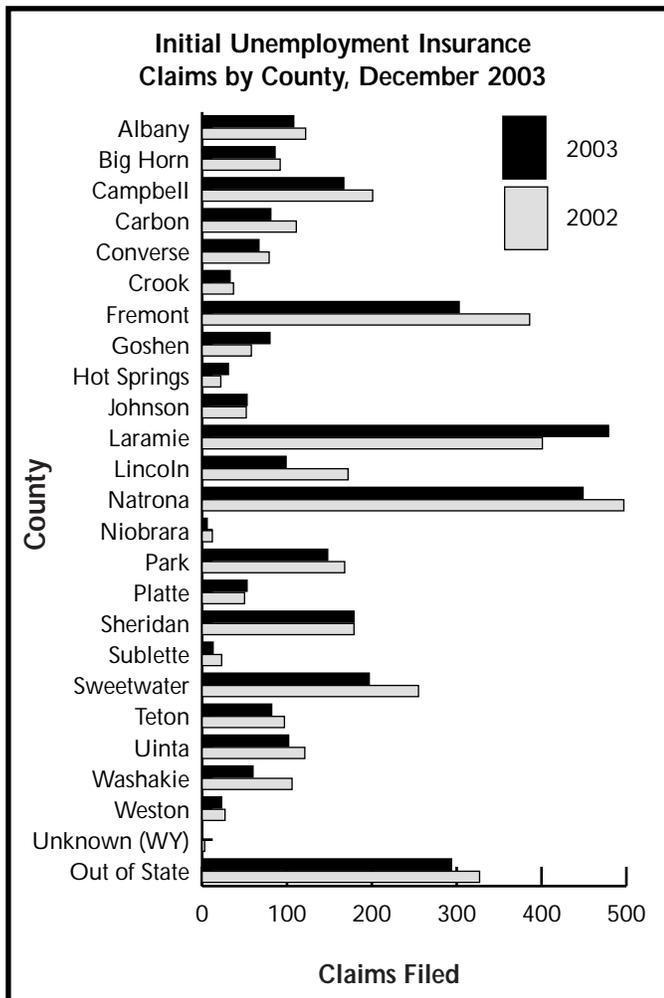
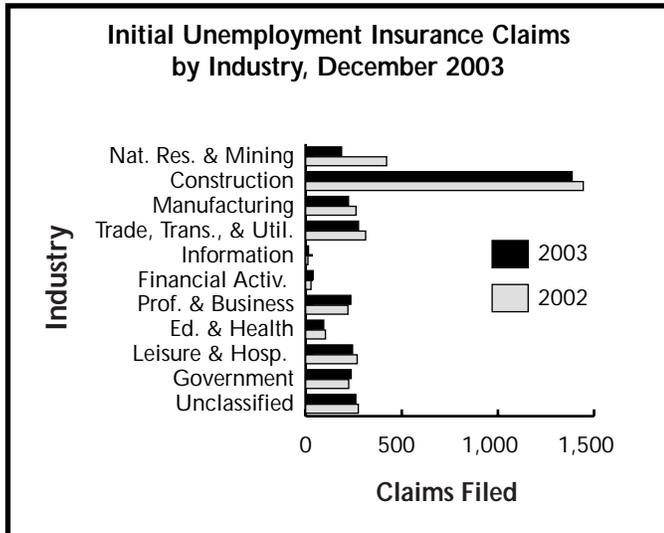
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2002 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.2 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.7 to 4.7 percent would contain the actual rate.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Statewide initial claims declined 10.3 percent compared to November 2003, the largest over-the-month decline in recent years (1997 - 2003).



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Nov 03	Dec 02
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	3,196	3,564	3,598	-10.3	-11.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,796	1,681	2,127	6.8	-15.6
Natural Resources and Mining	187	155	421	20.6	-55.6
Mining	160	131	369	22.1	-56.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	22	17	22	29.4	0.0
Construction	1,386	1,433	1,444	-3.3	-4.0
Manufacturing	223	93	262	139.8	-14.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	935	1,272	1,006	-26.5	-7.1
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	275	319	312	-13.8	-11.9
Wholesale Trade	34	44	35	-22.7	-2.9
Retail Trade	157	183	181	-14.2	-13.3
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	84	92	96	-8.7	-12.5
Information	15	10	12	50.0	25.0
Financial Activities	39	48	28	-18.8	39.3
Professional & Business Services	235	291	220	-19.2	6.8
Educational & Health Services	94	108	103	-13.0	-8.7
Leisure & Hospitality	244	458	268	-46.7	-9.0
Other Services	33	38	63	-13.2	-47.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	237	344	224	-31.1	5.8
Federal Government	119	199	136	-40.2	-12.5
State Government	18	34	17	-47.1	5.9
Local Government	100	111	71	-9.9	40.8
Local Education	21	18	23	16.7	-8.7
UNCLASSIFIED	228	267	241	-14.6	-5.4

LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	477	461	398	3.5	19.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	282	262	225	7.6	25.3
Construction	229	248	189	-7.7	21.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	150	154	132	-2.6	13.6
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	47	41	33	14.6	42.4
Financial Activities	7	4	8	75.0	-12.5
Professional & Business Services	55	49	41	12.2	34.1
Educational & Health Services	13	18	10	-27.8	30.0
Leisure & Hospitality	17	24	30	-29.2	-43.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	27	22	-40.7	-27.3
UNCLASSIFIED	29	18	19	61.1	52.6

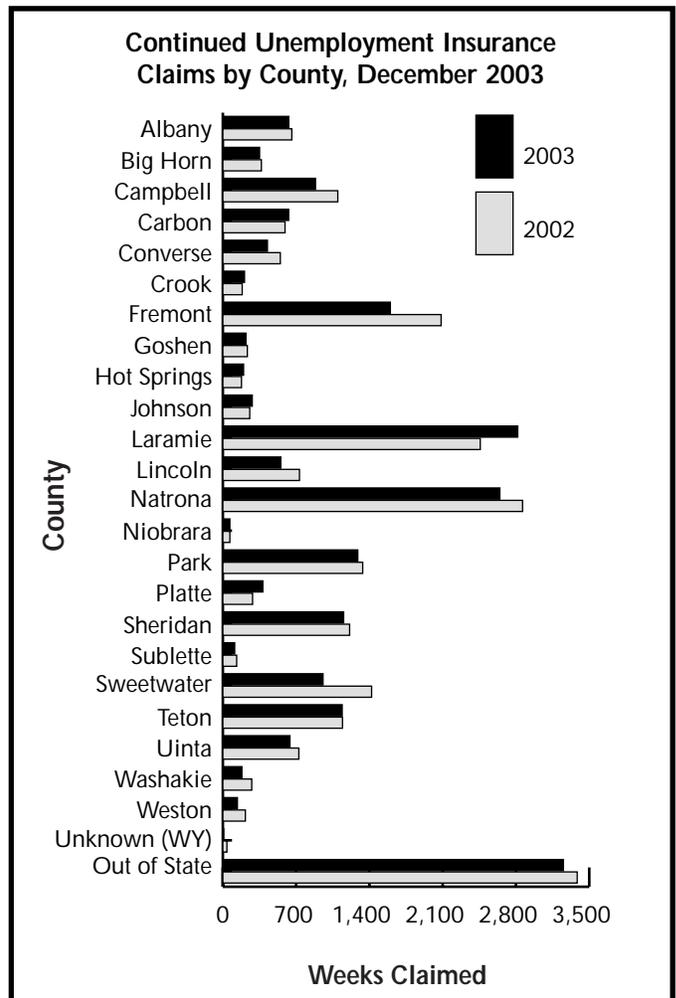
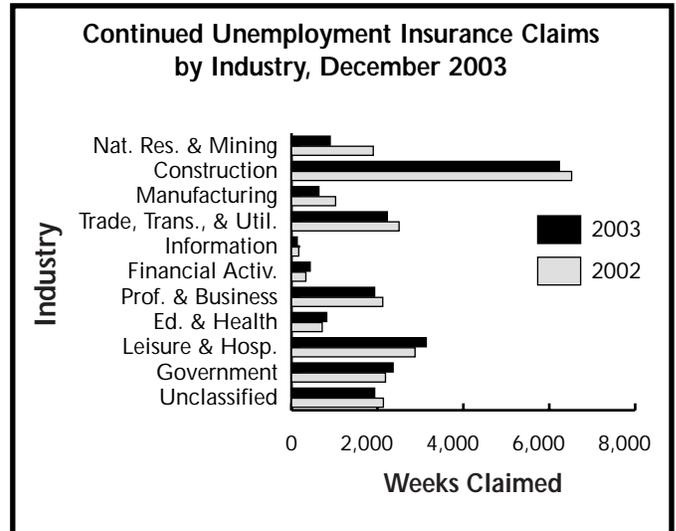
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	449	552	497	-18.7	-9.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	296	356	322	-16.9	-8.1
Construction	251	325	222	-22.8	13.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	126	155	155	-18.7	-18.7
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	44	61	46	-27.9	-4.3
Financial Activities	5	6	9	-16.7	-44.4
Professional & Business Services	33	43	41	-23.3	-19.5
Educational & Health Services	13	18	19	-27.8	-31.6
Leisure & Hospitality	26	22	30	18.2	-13.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	15	22	12	-31.8	25.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	19	8	-36.8	50.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Over-the-year continued claims declined by 7.7 percent, led by a substantial (52.7%) decrease in Natural Resources and Mining.

	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change	
	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Nov 03	Dec 02
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	20,768	16,038	22,496	29.5	-7.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,548	5,271	7,007	5.3	-20.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	7,776	4,631	9,450	67.9	-17.7
Natural Resources and Mining	901	687	1,903	31.1	-52.7
Mining	716	564	1,654	27.0	-56.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	121	65	179	86.2	-32.4
Construction	6,237	3,474	6,521	79.5	-4.4
Manufacturing	638	470	1,026	35.7	-37.8
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	9,008	8,273	9,166	8.9	-1.7
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	2,231	2,044	2,504	9.1	-10.9
Wholesale Trade	399	383	360	4.2	10.8
Retail Trade	1,247	1,093	1,414	14.1	-11.8
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	585	568	730	3.0	-19.9
Information	133	139	168	-4.3	-20.8
Financial Activities	435	436	334	-0.2	30.2
Professional & Business Services	1,935	1,454	2,124	33.1	-8.9
Educational & Health Services	820	789	714	3.9	14.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,137	3,138	2,876	0.0	9.1
Other Services	317	273	446	16.1	-28.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,365	1,893	2,187	24.9	8.1
Federal Government	1,190	849	1,072	40.2	11.0
State Government	253	257	296	-1.6	-14.5
Local Government	922	787	819	17.2	12.6
Local Education	183	189	252	-3.2	-27.4
UNCLASSIFIED	1,619	1,241	1,693	30.5	-4.4
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,818	2,052	2,457	37.3	14.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	760	672	777	13.1	-2.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,166	614	1,017	89.9	14.7
Construction	1,044	532	887	96.2	17.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,216	1,056	1,120	15.2	8.6
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	382	332	341	15.1	12.0
Financial Activities	69	79	57	-12.7	21.1
Professional & Business Services	329	238	370	38.2	-11.1
Educational & Health Services	146	161	116	-9.3	25.9
Leisure & Hospitality	164	143	122	14.7	34.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	325	291	183	11.7	77.6
UNCLASSIFIED	111	91	137	22.0	-19.0
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,648	2,046	2,863	29.4	-7.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	715	736	890	-2.9	-19.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,302	839	1,374	55.2	-5.2
Construction	1,089	648	1,013	68.1	7.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,119	1,011	1,249	10.7	-10.4
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	357	325	405	9.8	-11.9
Financial Activities	73	87	65	-16.1	12.3
Professional & Business Services	310	258	402	20.2	-22.9
Educational & Health Services	179	156	145	14.7	23.4
Leisure & Hospitality	137	114	127	20.2	7.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	135	132	148	2.3	-8.8
UNCLASSIFIED	92	64	92	43.8	0.0



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