

TRENDS

Examining Workforce Information Act Programmatic Outcomes Using the Wyoming Wage Records Universe as a Statistical Comparison Group

by: *Sylvia D. Jones, Statistical and Research Analyst*

WIA participation appears to be very effective in improving the economic lives of participants. For example, 65 percent of Dislocated Workers and 61 percent of Adults experienced at least one positive outcome from participation; many of those experienced more than one positive outcome.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) currently uses employment, job retention, and earnings increase as performance measures for programs it funds (U.S. Department of Labor, ETA, 2003). Section 171 of the 1998 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires the Secretary of Labor to prepare a five-year research plan for pilot, demonstration, research, evaluation, multi-state, and multi-service initiatives every two years. ETA's research plan provides for the evaluation of existing programs but it also covers applied research, including labor market research. Section 171 requires the

continuing evaluation of programs and activities using appropriate methodologies and research designs, especially experimental research designs (U.S. Government Accounting Office, 2004). Unfortunately, experimental

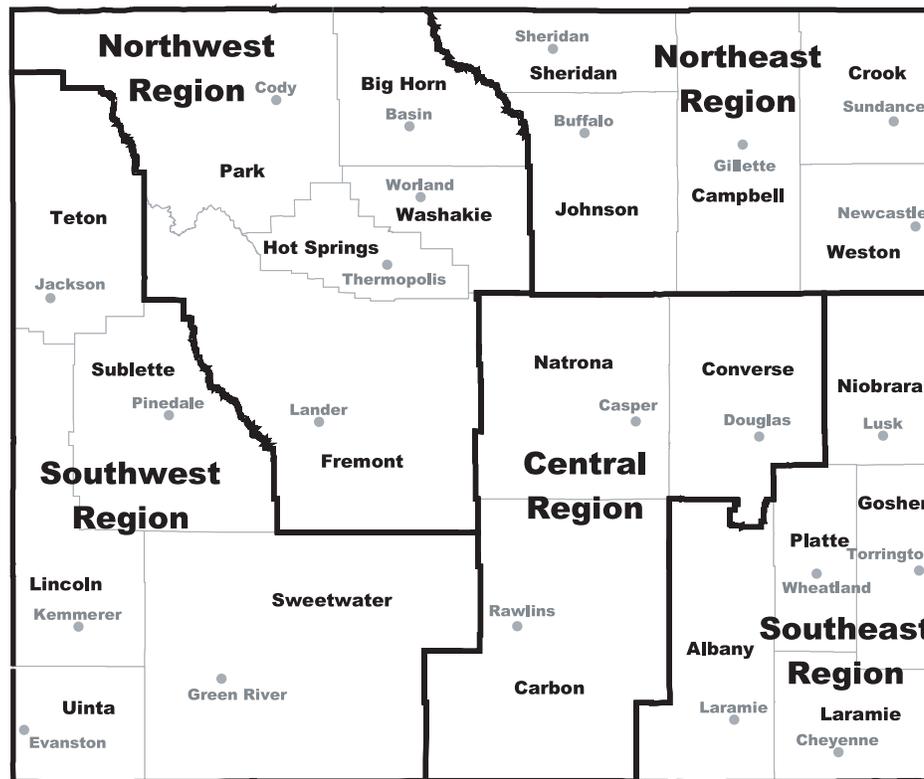
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Editor's Note: This article is part of a larger, upcoming study that will be published in an R&P occasional paper. For a copy of the study, contact Susan Murray at (307) 473-3835 or smurral@state.wy.us - ed.

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Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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research is expensive, time consuming, and often raises legal and ethical issues. This article addresses the current performance measures used by ETA and provides alternative measures that could improve program outcomes.

A basic limitation with ETA's current performance measurement strategy is the failure to measure outcomes in the context of the surrounding labor market. Without the labor market context, neither the state nor ETA can determine whether changes in wages and retention are effects of WIA participation or simply a reflection of the local economy.

ETA's current evaluation strategy also uses a limited number of outcome measures, preventing a thorough understanding of program outcomes. Research emphasis has been placed on finding new ways to evaluate the current outcomes without determining whether or not those outcomes represent program success. While performance measures can drive program development and management, it is not clear that federally required measures capture relevant information pertinent to employers, workers, or program managers.

Methods

A broader evaluation of current performance measures was conducted by putting Wyoming WIA training participants in the context of the Wyoming labor market. New outcome measures are investigated as potential enhancements to the strategy already in place.

The study group included Wyoming WIA participants for the Program Year

2001 and 224,217 individuals selected from the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Records file. There were 568 individuals who participated and exited WIA training during the program year, including 217 Adults, 110 Dislocated Workers, and 241 in Youth programs. The Youth groups were removed from the analyses because their outcome measures differ significantly from Adults and Dislocated Workers. The WIA participant file was combined with UI Wage Records in order to obtain wage and employment information. Turnover, employment industry, UI claims rate, and success were investigated.

Turnover was defined as the number of exits in employment divided by the number of jobs worked during the defined time period (Glover, 2002). If an individual exited all jobs worked, the turnover rate would be 1.0.

The researcher defined employment industry as the North American Industry Classification System (2004) sector of the primary employer in each quarter. Primary employer was defined as the employer which paid the individual the most wages in a quarter, regardless of the number of employers. For purposes of this study, living-wage industries were defined as those which pay, on average, wages higher than 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline for a family of four (Harris, 2003). The UI claims rate reflects the number of participants who filed a UI claim at any time during a quarter, not those who actually received UI benefits.

The final outcome investigated in this study was a two-category measure that reflects "success." Individuals received a

success rating if they met any of the following criteria:

- enrolled in a Wyoming community college after exit from the WIA program,
- their earnings increased more than the average Comparison group increase (\$800; see Figure 1),
- their turnover rate decreased by more than the average for the Comparison group (.0009%; see Figure 2, page 5),
- gained post-program employment in an industry that typically pays a living-wage to employees (Harris, 2003; see Figures 3 and 4, pages 5 and 6).

Discussion / Suggested Measures for ETA Outcomes

Study findings were mixed. Other studies which showed short-term earnings gains were replicated because wages of both WIA program segments

increased after termination from the program. However, their wages did not increase more than the statistical control group.

While WIA participants initially showed a rather large increase in earnings after program termination (see Figure 1); those high earnings started to decline after the second quarter. This could occur if participants stayed with their On-the-Job Training employer for two quarters after program termination and then needed to look for new employment, or if participants faced retention barriers, such as childcare issues.

Contrary to expectations, changes in turnover rates cannot be predicted by WIA participation either, even though turnover does significantly decrease after program exit for both participant groups used in the study (see Figure 2, page 5).

The industry measure revealed interesting results. The industrial

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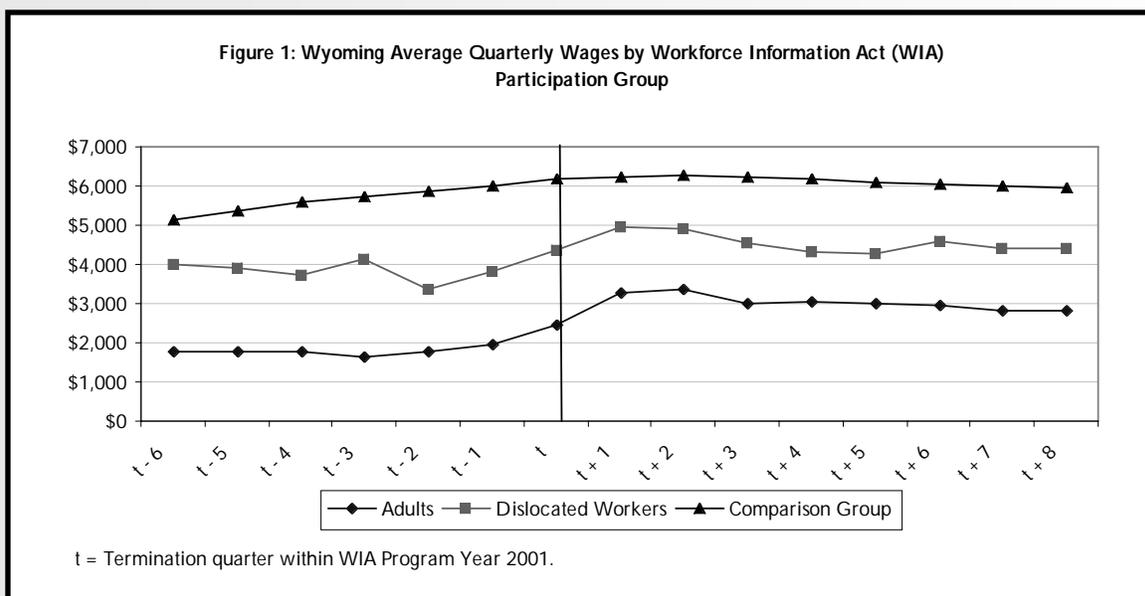
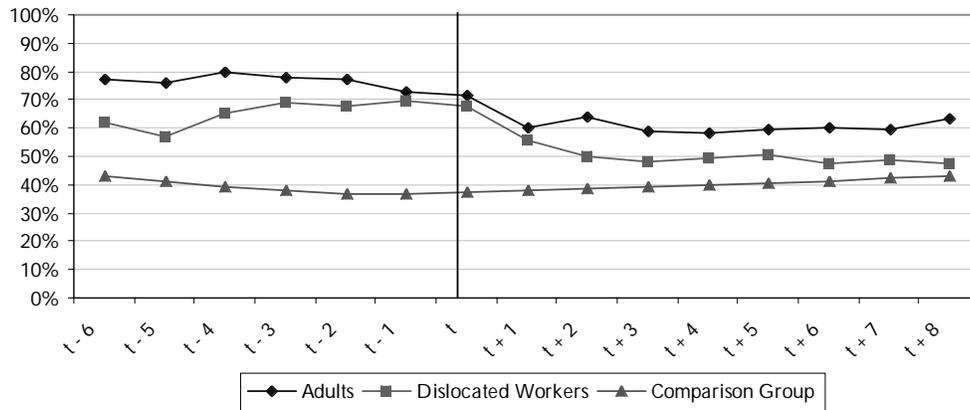
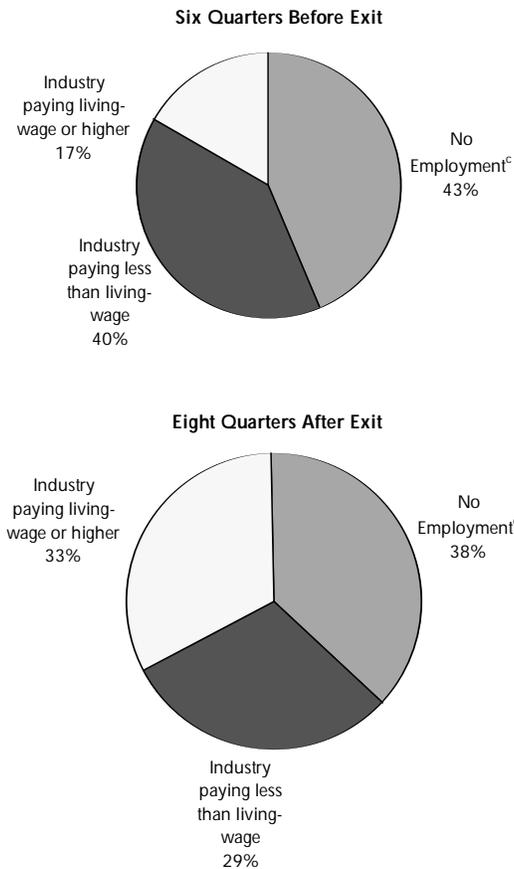


Figure 2: Wyoming Quarterly Turnover Rate by Workforce Information Act (WIA) Participation Group



t = Termination quarter within WIA Program Year 2001.

Figure 3: Percentage of Adults^a Working in Wyoming Industries Typically Paying Living-Wages, Before and After Program Exit^b

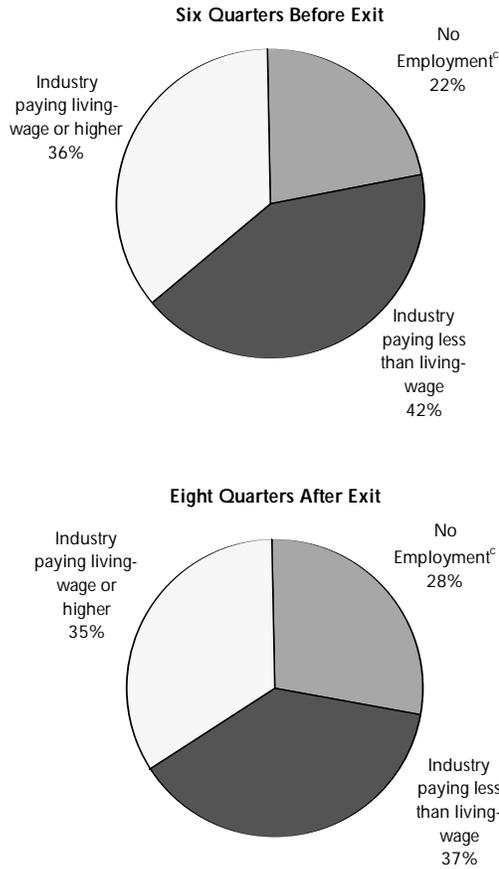


^aAs defined by the Workforce Investment Act.

^bProgram Exit is the quarter in which the participant terminated the WIA program. This study included participants whose termination quarter was during WIA Program Year 2001.

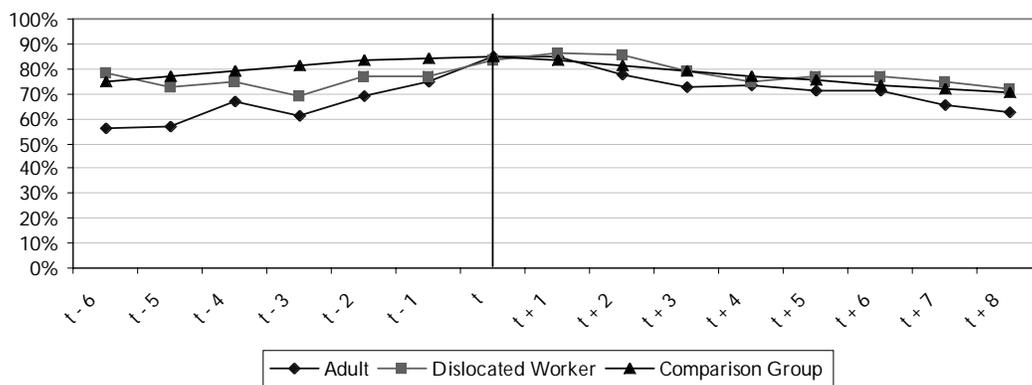
^cNot found in Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Records.

Figure 4: Percentage of Dislocated Workers^a Working in Desirable Industries Before and After Program Exit^b



^aAs defined by the Workforce Investment Act.
^bProgram Exit is the quarter in which the participant terminated the WIA program. This study included participants whose termination quarter was during WIA Program Year 2001.
^cNot found in Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Records.

Figure 5: Percent of Individuals Employed Quarterly by Wyoming Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Participation Group



t = Termination quarter within WIA Program Year 2001.

distribution of Adult participants changed considerably after training (see Figure 3, page 5). The percentage of individuals employed in low-paying industries decreased. Alternatively, employment in living-wage industries increased. The implications of this are very positive. WIA participation for Adults appears to result in a shift from no or low-paying employment, to employment in higher paying industries.

Dislocated Workers did not fare as well as Adult participants in the industry measure (see Figure 4, page 6). More Dislocated Workers were employed six quarters before program termination than eight quarters post-program. Employment in living-wage industries declined. However, employment in low-paying industries also declined. It is possible that Dislocated Workers are leaving the state for employment elsewhere, becoming employed in non-UI covered jobs, or becoming self-employed. Enrollment in a community college or university without concurrently working a UI covered job would also remove them from Wage Records. Outside influences could also affect Dislocated Workers' outcomes. For instance, Dislocated Workers tend to be firmly established in a job before they become eligible for the WIA program. After program completion, they are encouraged to find employment in an area in which they have no experience. They face competition from applicants with more relevant experience for jobs that often pay less than what they originally earned. Frustration with these situations could lead to discouragement and an eventual withdrawal from the labor market. This hypothesis could be tested using longitudinal and inter-state data.

Before program termination, the WIA participation groups were less likely to be employed than the Comparison group (see Figure 5, page 6). After program termination, there is no noticeable difference between the groups. The WIA program appears to be allowing participants to become indistinguishable from the average Wyoming worker, and that is an important accomplishment.

Findings in the success measure are most interesting. WIA participation appears to be very effective in improving the economic lives of participants. For example, 65 percent of Dislocated Workers experienced at least one positive outcome from participation; many of those experienced more than one positive outcome. The same is true for Adults. Except for Adults who enrolled in a Wyoming community college, who tended to withdraw from the labor market during their education, very few participants had only one positive outcome. The majority of Adults with a successful outcome increased their wages, decreased their turnover rate, and gained employment in a living-wage industry. In essence, they epitomize the unwritten goals of the WIA program.

Summary

While the capacity to conduct true experimental design and replication is limited, this study offers a powerful alternative analysis. By comparing human capital and work experience between WIA participants and a comparable segment of Wyoming's workforce, it was determined that WIA participants basically became indistinguishable from the rest of Wyoming's workforce, an arguably

favorable outcome. However, the Wyoming study shows that no program effect exists for wages or turnover, at least in the 24 months following program completion. In the absence of a strong economy, participants may have failed to become indistinguishable. Training programs likely have difficulty showing success in economically challenged environments. Additionally, the federally mandated outcome measures fail to reflect all of the successes of program completers. ETA should consider changing the focus of WIA program evaluation to measures that capture relevant information pertinent to employers, workers, and program managers.

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Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2003: Natrona County's Payroll up 8.1 Percent

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

tables by: Nancy Brennan, Economist

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment increased by 2,736 jobs or 1.1 percent during third quarter 2003 compared to third quarter 2002. Third quarter's employment increase is slightly lower than the five-year average growth of 1.8 percent (see Table 1, page 10). Total payroll increased by 4.5 percent, also below its five-year average (5.7%). Average weekly wage increased by \$18 or

3.4 percent, just below its five-year average (3.7%).

Table 2 (see page 10) shows that after slowing for several quarters, the growth rate of employment bottomed out in first quarter 2003 (0.2%). Growth began to rebound in second quarter (0.6%), and increased further in third quarter (1.1%). The Figure (see page 11) shows that payroll growth stood at 6.5 percent in

Table 1: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter, 1999 to 2003

	Average Monthly Employment		Total Wages		Average Weekly Wage	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
99Q3	1.8	2.3	7.5	5.1	5.1	2.8
00Q3	2.4	1.8	3.8	1.5	1.3	-0.3
01Q3	3.1	2.2	9.0	2.3	5.7	0.1
02Q3	0.8	2.0	3.7	1.3	2.9	-0.7
03Q3	1.1	2.5	4.5	2.4	3.4	-0.2
5-Year Average for Q3	1.8	2.2	5.7	2.5	3.7	0.3

first quarter 2002, fell to 2.4 percent in fourth quarter 2002, and has since increased to 4.5 percent in third quarter 2003. The pattern of increasing employment growth has been seen in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) data for a few months now (see tables on pages 18 to 19).

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

Each year, approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they have been assigned to the correct industry category (e.g., Mining, Construction, Manufacturing) based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS; U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). If it is found that an employer has changed primary business activity, a different NAICS code is assigned to reflect that change. Research staff also review employers' NAICS codes if the business is sold, becomes incorporated, or otherwise changes ownership. In this manner, Research & Planning continuously ensures that employers are assigned to

the correct industry category. However, such changes also make it difficult for data users to make direct comparisons across years. Sometimes, large employers may move from one NAICS sector to another.

Table 3 (see page 11) shows that Mining, Health Care & Social Assistance, Transportation & Warehousing, and Administrative & Waste Services created the most jobs in third quarter.

Mining added 868 jobs or 4.8 percent during third quarter. The vast majority of

(Text continued on page 12)

Table 2: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2002 to Third Quarter 2003

	Average Monthly Employment	Total Wages
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Year
02Q1	1.5%	6.5%
02Q2	0.7%	4.7%
02Q3	0.5%	3.1%
02Q4	0.4%	2.4%
03Q1	0.2%	2.6%
03Q2	0.6%	3.4%
03Q3	1.1%	4.5%

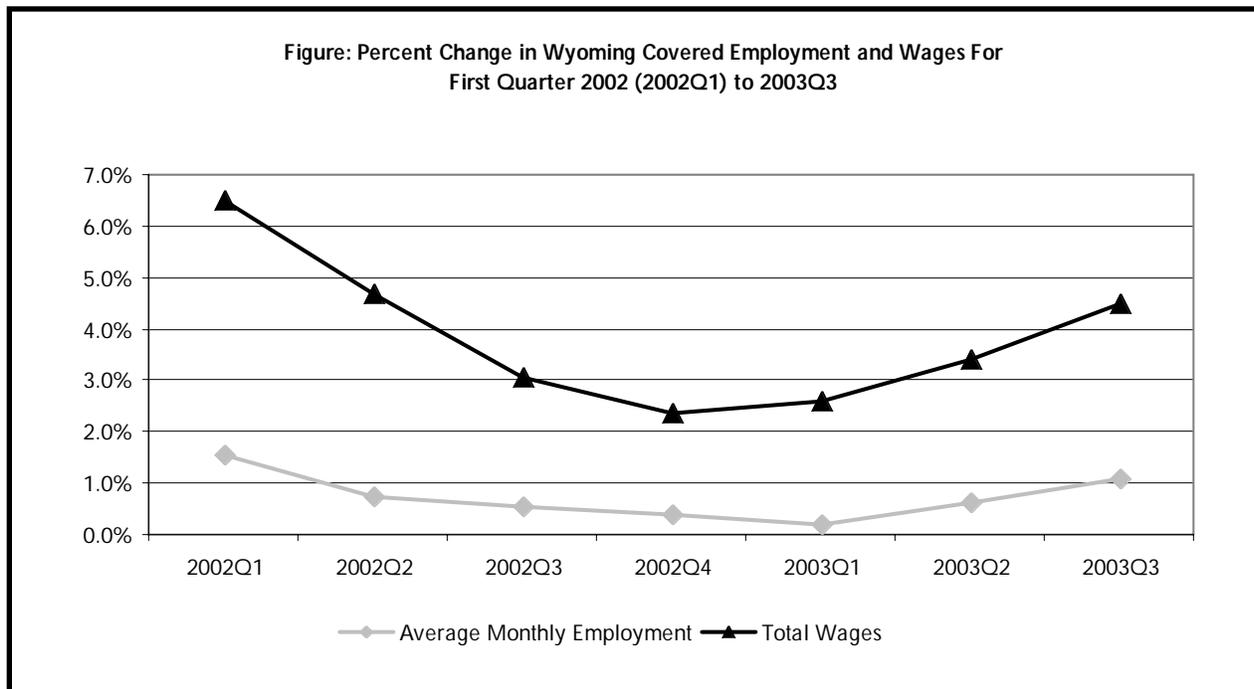


Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2003 by Industry

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter 2002	2003	Change No.	%	Third Quarter 2002	2003	Change Amt.	%	Third Quarter 2002	2003	Change Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	247,009	249,746	2,736	1.1	\$1,744,667,330	\$1,823,797,506	\$79,130,176	4.5	\$543	\$562	\$18	3.4
Total Private (11-99)	192,133	194,338	2,205	1.1	\$1,324,337,570	\$1,380,139,250	\$55,801,680	4.2	\$530	\$546	\$16	3.0
Agriculture (11)	2,579	2,560	-19	-0.7	\$13,928,504	\$13,813,612	-\$114,892	-0.8	\$415	\$415	\$0	-0.1
Mining (21)	18,174	19,042	868	4.8	\$241,534,267	\$259,857,009	\$18,322,742	7.6	\$1,022	\$1,050	\$27	2.7
Utilities (22)	2,135	2,169	34	1.6	\$31,275,638	\$32,817,613	\$1,541,975	4.9	\$1,127	\$1,164	\$37	3.3
Construction (23)	21,896	21,839	-57	-0.3	\$174,604,043	\$178,457,870	\$3,853,827	2.2	\$613	\$629	\$15	2.5
Manufacturing (31-33)	9,509	9,433	-77	-0.8	\$87,579,563	\$88,420,125	\$840,562	1.0	\$708	\$721	\$13	1.8
Wholesale Trade (42)	7,073	7,069	-4	-0.1	\$64,450,414	\$66,041,484	\$1,591,070	2.5	\$701	\$719	\$18	2.5
Retail Trade (44-45)	31,212	31,006	-205	-0.7	\$152,669,409	\$154,327,418	\$1,658,009	1.1	\$376	\$383	\$7	1.8
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	6,706	7,095	389	5.8	\$53,064,212	\$56,460,994	\$3,396,782	6.4	\$609	\$612	\$3	0.6
Information (51)	4,113	4,187	74	1.8	\$28,597,026	\$29,992,587	\$1,395,561	4.9	\$535	\$551	\$16	3.0
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,622	6,862	240	3.6	\$55,712,977	\$60,480,645	\$4,767,668	8.6	\$647	\$678	\$31	4.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,709	3,535	-174	-4.7	\$21,788,525	\$21,396,804	-\$391,721	-1.8	\$452	\$466	\$14	3.0
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,506	7,645	139	1.9	\$64,181,062	\$66,534,479	\$2,353,417	3.7	\$658	\$669	\$12	1.8
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	712	569	-143	-20.1	\$6,935,898	\$6,870,548	-\$65,350	-0.9	\$749	\$929	\$180	24.0
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	8,037	8,380	342	4.3	\$38,930,627	\$42,713,394	\$3,782,767	9.7	\$373	\$392	\$20	5.2
Educational Services (61)	1,166	1,270	104	8.9	\$10,775,866	\$7,586,430	-\$3,189,436	-29.6	\$711	\$460	-\$251	-35.3
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	17,932	18,664	732	4.1	\$127,259,553	\$137,978,018	\$10,718,465	8.4	\$546	\$569	\$23	4.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	3,154	3,269	115	3.6	\$11,026,440	\$11,890,622	\$864,182	7.8	\$269	\$280	\$11	4.1
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	32,131	32,170	39	0.1	\$99,063,225	\$102,666,204	\$3,602,979	3.6	\$237	\$245	\$8	3.5
Other Services (81)	7,766	7,573	-194	-2.5	\$40,960,321	\$41,832,341	\$872,020	2.1	\$406	\$425	\$19	4.7
Total Government	54,876	55,408	532	1.0	\$420,329,760	\$443,658,256	\$23,328,496	5.6	\$589	\$616	\$27	4.5
Federal Government	8,275	8,402	127	1.5	\$85,769,132	\$92,976,518	\$7,207,386	8.4	797	851	54	6.8
State Government	12,510	12,807	297	2.4	\$113,204,364	\$116,579,336	\$3,374,972	3.0	696	700	4	0.6
Local Government	34,092	34,199	107	0.3	\$221,356,264	\$234,102,402	\$12,746,138	5.8	499	527	27	5.4

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2003 by Region and County

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amount	%	2002	2003	Amt.	%
TOTAL	247,009	249,746	2,736	1.1	\$1,744,667,330	\$1,823,797,506	\$79,130,176	4.5	\$543	\$562	\$18	3.4
NORTHWEST	38,061	38,713	651	1.7	\$230,225,184	\$238,936,398	\$8,711,214	3.8	\$465	\$475	\$9	2.0
Big Horn	4,109	4,182	73	1.8	27,650,577	29,160,588	1,510,011	5.5	518	536	19	3.6
Fremont	14,763	14,626	-137	-0.9	87,356,582	89,353,057	1,996,475	2.3	455	470	15	3.2
Hot Springs	2,014	1,916	-98	-4.9	10,885,081	10,194,788	-690,293	-6.3	416	409	-6	-1.5
Park	13,613	14,291	678	5.0	81,570,885	86,364,715	4,793,830	5.9	461	465	4	0.9
Washakie	3,562	3,697	135	3.8	22,762,059	23,863,250	1,101,191	4.8	492	496	5	1.0
NORTHEAST	40,259	40,109	-150	-0.4	\$313,450,437	\$319,117,180	\$5,666,743	1.8	\$599	\$612	\$13	2.2
Campbell	21,291	21,020	-271	-1.3	198,369,114	200,321,417	1,952,303	1.0	717	733	16	2.3
Crook	2,027	2,040	13	0.6	12,514,432	12,672,582	158,150	1.3	475	478	3	0.6
Johnson	3,025	3,073	48	1.6	15,910,484	17,181,949	1,271,465	8.0	405	430	26	6.3
Sheridan	11,645	11,850	204	1.8	71,717,321	75,581,509	3,864,188	5.4	474	491	17	3.6
Weston	2,271	2,127	-144	-6.3	14,939,086	13,359,723	-1,579,363	-10.6	506	483	-23	-4.5
SOUTHWEST	56,334	57,721	1,387	2.5	\$415,440,689	\$450,118,773	\$34,678,084	8.3	\$567	\$600	\$33	5.7
Lincoln	5,634	6,552	918	16.3	34,415,534	49,584,549	15,169,015	44.1	470	582	112	23.9
Sublette	2,758	3,089	332	12.0	17,501,799	20,892,610	3,390,811	19.4	488	520	32	6.6
Sweetwater	18,827	19,781	954	5.1	166,338,440	179,389,881	13,051,441	7.8	680	698	18	2.6
Teton	19,979	19,238	-741	-3.7	135,268,832	136,503,244	1,234,412	0.9	521	546	25	4.8
Uinta	9,137	9,061	-76	-0.8	61,916,084	63,748,489	1,832,405	3.0	521	541	20	3.8
SOUTHEAST	60,920	62,012	1,092	1.8	\$422,026,119	\$441,217,768	\$19,191,649	4.5	\$533	\$547	\$14	2.7
Albany	14,159	14,647	488	3.4	98,775,162	99,927,218	1,152,056	1.2	537	525	-12	-2.2
Goshen	3,903	3,831	-72	-1.8	22,003,116	21,724,722	-278,394	-1.3	434	436	3	0.6
Laramie	38,725	39,501	776	2.0	276,169,576	294,385,963	18,216,387	6.6	549	573	25	4.5
Niobrara	803	761	-42	-5.2	3,942,887	3,808,135	-134,752	-3.4	378	385	7	1.9
Platte	3,331	3,273	-58	-1.7	21,135,378	21,371,730	236,352	1.1	488	502	14	2.9
CENTRAL	43,986	45,044	1058	2.4	\$295,773,055	\$321,178,887	\$25,405,832	8.6	\$517	\$548	\$31	6.0
Carbon	6,643	6,488	-155	-2.3	40,104,006	42,067,654	1,963,648	4.9	464	499	34	7.4
Converse	4,245	4,443	197	4.6	27,279,114	32,273,180	4,994,066	18.3	494	559	65	13.1
Natrona	33,098	34,113	1,015	3.1	228,389,935	246,838,053	18,448,118	8.1	531	557	26	4.9
Nonclassified ^a	7,448	6,146	-1,302	-17.5	\$67,751,846	\$53,228,500	-\$14,523,346	-21.4	\$700	\$666	-\$34	-4.8

^aThe employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

job gains was in support activities for mining and is likely related to an increase in natural gas drilling activity around the state.

Health Care & Social Assistance grew by 732 jobs or 4.1 percent. Growth was

strongest in ambulatory health care services (the industry which includes doctors' offices and clinics). Jobs were also added in nursing and residential care facilities and social assistance.

(Text continued on page 14)

Table 5: Natrona County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2003 by Industry

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amount	%	2002	2003	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	33,098	34,113	1,015	3.1	\$228,389,935	\$246,838,053	\$18,448,118	8.1	\$531	\$557	\$26	4.9
Total Private (11-99)	28,305	29,298	993	3.5	\$192,987,536	\$209,643,733	\$16,656,197	8.6	\$524	\$550	\$26	4.9
Agriculture (11)	109	124	15	14.1	\$411,701	\$555,287	\$143,586	34.9	\$291	\$344	\$53	18.2
Mining (21)	2,055	2,571	516	25.1	\$23,407,320	\$29,900,659	\$6,493,339	27.7	\$876	\$895	\$18	2.1
Utilities (22)	88	88	0	0.4	\$1,432,841	\$1,456,087	\$23,246	1.6	\$1,252	\$1,268	\$16	1.2
Construction (23)	2,303	2,549	247	10.7	\$17,781,553	\$20,289,671	\$2,508,118	14.1	\$594	\$612	\$18	3.1
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,541	1,569	28	1.8	\$11,979,283	\$12,657,612	\$678,329	5.7	\$598	\$620	\$23	3.8
Wholesale Trade (42)	2,274	2,154	-120	-5.3	\$21,539,939	\$20,905,154	-\$634,785	-2.9	\$729	\$747	\$18	2.5
Retail Trade (44-45)	4,644	4,616	-28	-0.6	\$23,133,362	\$24,665,384	\$1,532,022	6.6	\$383	\$411	\$28	7.3
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	899	920	21	2.3	\$7,461,906	\$7,667,439	\$205,533	2.8	\$638	\$641	\$3	0.4
Information (51)	569	515	-54	-9.5	\$3,900,983	\$3,700,852	-\$200,131	-5.1	\$527	\$553	\$25	4.8
Finance & Insurance (52)	955	1,010	55	5.8	\$8,685,450	\$10,086,555	\$1,401,105	16.1	\$700	\$768	\$68	9.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	1,018	799	-219	-21.5	\$6,067,239	\$5,671,564	-\$395,675	-6.5	\$458	\$546	\$88	19.1
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,173	1,200	27	2.3	\$9,863,186	\$10,464,785	\$601,599	6.1	\$647	\$671	\$24	3.7
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	24	12	-12	-49.3	\$240,780	\$119,185	-\$121,595	-50.5	\$761	\$743	-\$18	-2.3
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	1,866	2,101	235	12.6	\$7,661,213	\$9,320,403	\$1,659,190	21.7	\$316	\$341	\$25	8.0
Educational Services (61)	83	98	15	18.1	\$276,303	\$378,761	\$102,458	37.1	\$257	\$298	\$41	16.0
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	4,100	4,259	158	3.9	\$32,817,024	\$34,125,910	\$1,308,886	4.0	\$616	\$616	\$1	0.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	437	471	34	7.8	\$1,102,083	\$1,375,509	\$273,426	24.8	\$194	\$224	\$31	15.8
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	2,846	2,952	106	3.7	\$7,298,154	\$7,818,283	\$520,129	7.1	\$197	\$204	\$6	3.3
Other Services (81)	1,320	1,288	-32	-2.4	\$7,927,216	\$8,484,633	\$557,417	7.0	\$462	\$507	\$45	9.7
Total Government	4,793	4,816	22	0.5	\$35,402,399	\$37,194,320	\$1,791,921	5.1	\$568	\$594	\$26	4.6
Federal Government	681	706	25	3.7	\$8,379,580	\$9,451,153	\$1,071,573	12.8	946	1,029	83	8.8
State Government	737	709	-28	-3.8	\$6,693,256	\$6,570,489	-\$122,767	-1.8	699	713	14	2.0
Local Government	3,375	3,400	25	0.7	\$20,329,563	\$21,172,678	\$843,115	4.1	463	479	16	3.4

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Table 6: Laramie County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2003 by Industry

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amount	%	2002	2003	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	38,725	39,501	776	2.0	\$276,169,576	\$294,385,963	\$18,216,387	6.6	\$549	\$573	25	4.5
Total Private (11-99)	27,005	27,624	619	2.3	\$169,954,430	\$181,730,859	\$11,776,429	6.9	\$484	\$506	22	4.5
Agriculture (11)	183	169	-14	-7.7	\$978,380	\$947,668	-\$30,712	-3.1	\$412	\$432	20	4.9
Mining (21)	88	36	-52	-59.3	\$917,654	\$354,147	-\$563,507	-61.4	\$805	\$764	-41	-5.1
Utilities (22)	114	114	0	0.3	\$1,506,143	\$1,617,756	\$111,613	7.4	\$1,016	\$1,088	72	7.1
Construction (23)	2,624	2,764	139	5.3	\$19,147,474	\$20,916,309	\$1,768,835	9.2	\$561	\$582	21	3.7
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,499	1,546	47	3.1	\$14,317,210	\$14,731,439	\$414,229	2.9	\$735	\$733	-2	-0.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	679	709	30	4.5	\$6,136,960	\$6,511,008	\$374,048	6.1	\$696	\$706	11	1.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	5,678	5,582	-97	-1.7	\$29,527,085	\$29,635,077	\$107,992	0.4	\$400	\$408	8	2.1
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	1,129	1,370	240	21.3	\$8,306,675	\$9,478,738	\$1,172,063	14.1	\$566	\$532	-33	-5.9
Information (51)	1,003	1,062	59	5.9	\$8,448,002	\$9,556,033	\$1,108,031	13.1	\$648	\$692	44	6.8
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,463	1,551	88	6.0	\$12,532,669	\$14,143,366	\$1,610,697	12.9	\$659	\$701	42	6.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	400	464	64	16.0	\$2,509,700	\$2,939,216	\$429,516	17.1	\$483	\$487	5	1.0
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,254	1,329	75	6.0	\$12,725,678	\$13,690,496	\$964,818	7.6	\$781	\$792	12	1.5
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	315	199	-116	-36.8	\$2,131,977	\$1,661,367	-\$470,610	-22.1	\$521	\$642	121	23.2
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	2,072	2,034	-38	-1.8	\$10,180,466	\$10,411,549	\$231,083	2.3	\$378	\$394	16	4.2
Educational Services (61)	81	87	6	7.4	\$297,554	\$342,556	\$45,002	15.1	\$284	\$304	20	7.2
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	2,496	2,813	316	12.7	\$20,372,478	\$24,317,354	\$3,944,876	19.4	\$628	\$665	37	5.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	335	302	-33	-9.9	\$879,259	\$803,123	-\$76,136	-8.7	\$202	\$205	3	1.3
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	4,284	4,220	-64	-1.5	\$12,027,141	\$12,557,497	\$530,356	4.4	\$216	\$229	13	6.0
Other Services (81)	1,309	1,275	-34	-2.6	\$7,011,925	\$7,116,160	\$104,235	1.5	\$412	\$429	17	4.2
Total Government	11,720	11,877	157	1.3	\$106,215,146	\$112,655,104	\$6,439,958	6.1	\$697	\$730	32	4.7
Federal Government	2,487	2,624	137	5.5	\$28,507,318	\$31,483,958	\$2,976,640	10.4	\$882	\$923	41	4.7
State Government	3,774	3,829	55	1.5	\$36,483,959	\$37,988,707	\$1,504,748	4.1	\$744	\$763	19	2.6
Local Government	5,459	5,424	-35	-0.6	\$41,223,869	\$43,182,439	\$1,958,570	4.8	\$581	\$612	32	5.4

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

However, employment fell slightly in private hospitals.

Employment in Transportation & Warehousing grew by 389 jobs or 5.8 percent in third quarter. The largest increase was in warehousing and storage, but employment also grew in support activities for transportation. Employment in most other transportation subindustries was stable.

Administrative & Waste Services added 342 jobs or 4.3 percent. Employment services (including temporary help agencies) grew by 200 jobs.

Job losses in Retail Trade (-205 jobs or -0.7%) were largely the result of reclassification of firms to other industries (non-economic code changes). Similarly, Real Estate & Rental & Leasing and Management of Companies & Enterprises were affected by code changes rather than economic events.

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 4 (see page 12), employment increased in 13 of Wyoming's 23 counties during third quarter. In an effort to increase data quality, the Covered Employment and Wages unit has continued to contact many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within appropriate counties. This has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation and corresponding employment increases in many counties throughout the state. While the long-run result will be higher-quality data, initially some of the employment increases at the county level

may simply be interpreted as more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs in the counties.

Sweetwater County added 954 jobs or 5.1 percent. Large job gains were seen across many industries, including Mining, Construction, Administrative & Waste Services, and Health Care & Social Assistance. Government employment was flat or down slightly.

Employment grew by 918 jobs or 16.3 percent in Lincoln County, mostly as the result of job gains in Mining and Construction. Employment in other industries was stable.

Although Table 4 (see page 12) shows that Park County added 678 jobs (5.0%), this growth is mostly the result of the reclassification of a large employer from Teton County.

Employment grew by 1,015 jobs or 3.1 percent in Natrona County (see Table 5, page 13). Large job gains occurred in Mining (516 jobs or 25.1%), Construction (247 jobs or 10.7%), and Administrative & Waste Services (235 jobs or 12.6%). Health Care & Social Assistance grew by 158 jobs or 3.9 percent. The employment decline in Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (-219 jobs or -21.5%) was the result of the reclassification of a large firm to another industry, rather than an economic event. Total payroll grew by 8.1 percent in Natrona County. The largest contributors to this increase were Mining and Construction. Average weekly wage increased by \$26 (or 4.9%) to \$557.

Laramie County added 776 jobs or 2.0 percent during third quarter (see Table 6,

page 13). Health Care & Social Assistance grew by 316 jobs or 12.7 percent. Other industries with large job gains included Transportation & Warehousing (240 jobs or 21.3%), Construction (139 jobs or 5.3%), and Federal Government (137 jobs or 5.5%).

References

U.S. Census Bureau. (2002, September 10). 2002 NAICS codes and titles. Retrieved December 18, 2003, from <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm>



Wyoming Unemployment Falls in February

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.9 percent in January to 3.5 percent in February. It is well below its year-ago level of 4.5 percent and the national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent. Job growth continued at a healthy pace as Wyoming added 4,800 jobs (2.0%). Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) grew at a somewhat slower pace (1.1%).

From January to February, the number of jobs in Wyoming was little changed (-300 jobs or -0.1%). Seasonal job losses affected Construction (-700 jobs or -4.1%), Retail Trade (-400 jobs or -1.4%), and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (-300 jobs or -2.5%). Job growth was seen in Leisure & Hospitality (200 jobs or 0.7%), Information (200 jobs or 4.9%), and Government (1,000 jobs or 1.6%).

In over-the-year comparisons, Wyoming gained 4,800 jobs or 2.0 percent. This level of growth seems to indicate a rebound in Wyoming's economy from the brief slowdown which occurred during 2002 and 2003. Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) added 1,900 jobs or 11.0 percent. Other industries with substantial growth included Construction (200 jobs or 1.2%), Manufacturing (200 jobs or 2.2%), Financial Activities (700 jobs or 7.1%), Educational & Health Services (600 jobs or 2.9%), and Government (1,100 jobs or 1.7%). Job losses occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (-200 jobs or -0.7%) and Other Services (-300 jobs or -3.2%).

Most county unemployment rates were stable or down slightly in February. The largest decreases occurred in Niobrara County (down from 4.3% in January to 3.3% in February) and Carbon County (down from 6.3% to 5.6%). The

unemployment rate increased in Weston (up from 3.7% in January to 4.2% in February), Washakie (4.3% in January, 4.5% in February), Goshen (4.8% in January, 4.9% in February), and Lincoln counties (6.1% in January, 6.2% in February).

The counties with the largest over-the-year employment growth were Natrona (1,286), Campbell (678), Park (578), and Sweetwater (543).



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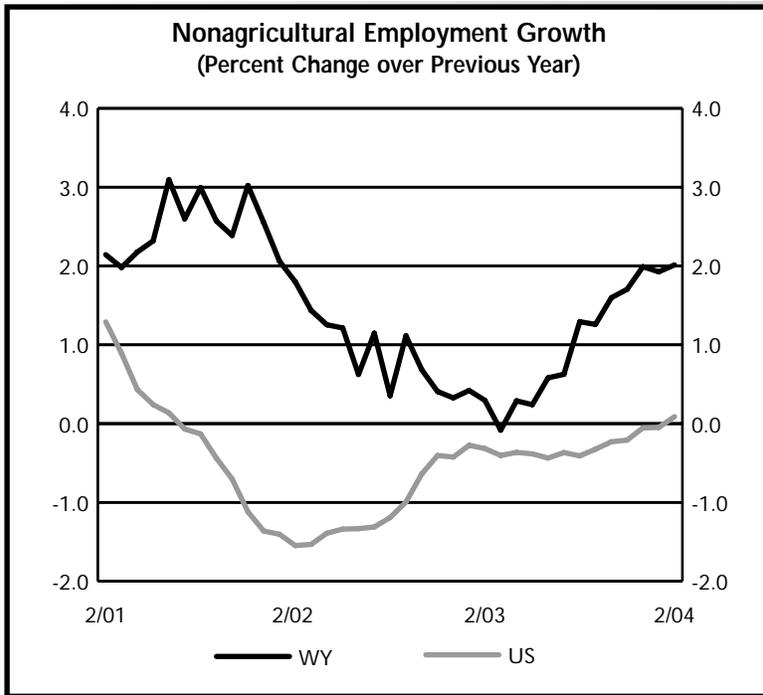
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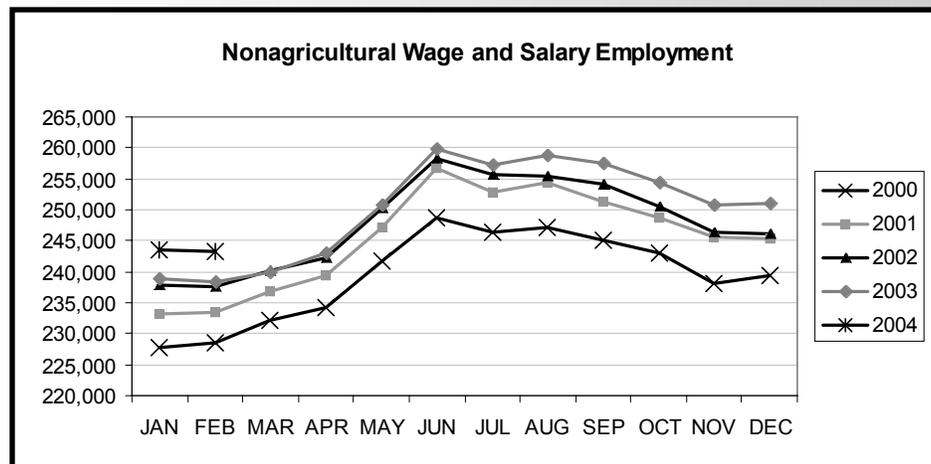
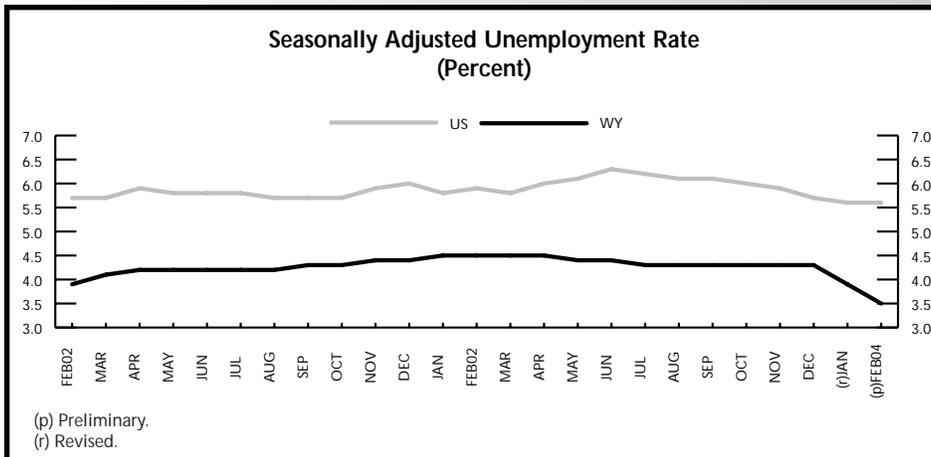
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Wyoming Department of Employment, Employment Tax Division



State Unemployment Rates February 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.3
Alaska	7.4
Oregon	7.1
Michigan	6.6
New York	6.3
South Carolina	6.3
Illinois	6.2
California	6.1
District of Columbia	6.1
Texas	6.1
Washington	6.1
North Carolina	6.0
Ohio	5.9
Louisiana	5.8
Alabama	5.6
New Mexico	5.6
United States	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
Mississippi	5.5
Colorado	5.4
New Jersey	5.4
West Virginia	5.4
Arizona	5.3
Indiana	5.3
Kentucky	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Rhode Island	5.2
Wisconsin	5.2
Missouri	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Maine	5.0
Oklahoma	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
Idaho	4.8
Kansas	4.8
Utah	4.8
Connecticut	4.7
Minnesota	4.7
Florida	4.6
Nevada	4.4
Hawaii	4.2
New Hampshire	4.2
Iowa	4.1
Maryland	4.0
Montana	4.0
Georgia	3.8
Nebraska	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Wyoming	3.5
Delaware	3.4
Virginia	3.4
South Dakota	3.2
North Dakota	3.1



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

In over-the-year comparisons, Wyoming gained 4,800 jobs or 2.0 percent, indicating a rebound in Wyoming's economy from the brief slowdown which occurred during 2002 and 2003.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Jan04(r)		Feb03(b)		Jan04	Feb03	Jan04(r)		Feb03(b)		Jan04	Feb03			
	Feb04(p)	Jan04(r)	Feb03(b)	Feb04	Feb04	Feb04(p)	Jan04(r)		Feb03(b)	Feb04	Feb04				
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	243.2	243.5	238.4	-0.1	2.0			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.7	38.8	39.0	-0.3	-0.8		
TOTAL PRIVATE	178.4	179.7	174.7	-0.7	2.1			TOTAL PRIVATE	26.2	26.6	26.7	-1.5	-1.9		
GOODS PRODUCING	44.6	45.3	42.3	-1.5	5.4			GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0		
Natural Resources & Mining	19.1	19.1	17.2	0.0	11.0			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-4.5		
Mining	18.9	18.9	17.1	0.0	10.5			Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1		
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.2	3.3	3.0	-3.0	6.7			SERVICE PROVIDING	35.1	35.2	35.4	-0.3	-0.8		
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.3	7.3	7.4	0.0	-1.4			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.0	8.1	8.3	-1.2	-3.6		
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	0.6	0.7	0.7	-14.3	-14.3		
Support Activities for Mining	8.4	8.3	6.7	1.2	25.4			Retail Trade	5.1	5.2	5.4	-1.9	-5.6		
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	5.9	5.8	4.8	1.7	22.9			Information	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1		
Construction	16.4	17.1	16.2	-4.1	1.2			Financial Activities	2.0	2.1	1.9	-4.8	5.3		
Construction of Buildings	3.7	3.8	3.8	-2.6	-2.6			Professional & Business Services	3.0	3.1	3.2	-3.2	-6.3		
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	4.3	4.3	3.8	0.0	13.2			Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9		
Specialty Trade Contractors	8.4	9.0	8.6	-6.7	-2.3			Leisure & Hospitality	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4		
Manufacturing	9.1	9.1	8.9	0.0	2.2			Other Services	1.5	1.6	1.6	-6.3	-6.3		
Durable Goods	4.9	4.8	4.7	2.1	4.3			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.5	12.2	12.3	2.5	1.6		
Non-Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0			Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.0	8.0		
SERVICE PROVIDING	198.6	198.2	196.1	0.2	1.3			State Government	3.9	3.8	3.9	2.6	0.0		
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	46.8	47.6	46.5	-1.7	0.6			Local Government	5.9	5.7	5.9	3.5	0.0		
Wholesale Trade	7.0	7.1	6.8	-1.4	2.9										
Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0			NATRONA COUNTY							
Retail Trade	28.3	28.7	28.3	-1.4	0.0			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.9	33.6	33.1	0.9	2.4		
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.3	28.0	27.4	1.1	3.3		
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0			GOODS PRODUCING	6.4	6.4	5.6	0.0	14.3		
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1	-2.1			Natural Resources & Mining	2.6	2.6	2.1	0.0	23.8		
Grocery Stores	3.7	3.8	3.8	-2.6	-2.6			Construction	2.2	2.2	2.0	0.0	10.0		
Gasoline Stations	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7		
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.6	5.3	-1.8	3.8			SERVICE PROVIDING	27.5	27.2	27.5	1.1	0.0		
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.7	1.8	5.9	0.0			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.6	7.7	7.7	-1.3	-1.3		
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	11.5	11.8	11.4	-2.5	0.9			Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0		
Utilities	2.1	2.2	2.1	-4.5	0.0			Retail Trade	4.4	4.5	4.5	-2.2	-2.2		
Transportation & Warehousing	9.4	9.6	9.3	-2.1	1.1			Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0		
Truck Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	6.5			Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0		
Information	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.9			Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	10.5	10.5	9.8	0.0	7.1			Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.6	2.8	7.7	0.0		
Finance & Insurance	7.1	7.1	6.6	0.0	7.6			Educational & Health Services	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3		
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	6.2			Leisure & Hospitality	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	6.7		
Professional & Business Services	14.6	14.6	14.5	0.0	0.7			Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9		
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.3	7.4	7.4	-1.4	-1.4			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.6	5.6	5.7	0.0	-1.8		
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0			Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	6.8	6.7	6.6	1.5	3.0			Local Government	4.2	4.2	4.3	0.0	-2.3		
Educational & Health Services	21.1	21.2	20.5	-0.5	2.9			Local Education	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0		
Educational	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0										
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.0	19.1	18.5	-0.5	2.7										
Ambulatory Health Care	7.1	7.1	6.9	0.0	2.9										
Offices of Physicians	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.4										
Hospitals	2.7	2.8	2.7	-3.6	0.0										
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.3	4.4	4.2	-2.3	2.4										
Social Assistance	4.9	4.8	4.7	2.1	4.3										
Leisure & Hospitality	27.3	27.1	27.5	0.7	-0.7										
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.1	2.0	2.1	5.0	0.0										
Accommodation & Food Services	25.2	25.1	25.4	0.4	-0.8										
Accommodation	8.7	8.7	9.0	0.0	-3.3										
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	16.5	16.4	16.4	0.6	0.6										
Other Services	9.2	9.3	9.5	-1.1	-3.2										
Repair & Maintenance	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3										
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	64.8	63.8	63.7	1.6	1.7										
Federal Government	7.2	7.2	7.1	0.0	1.4										
State Government	15.3	15.5	14.8	-1.3	3.4										
State Govt. Education	6.1	6.3	5.6	-3.2	8.9										
Local Government	42.3	41.1	41.8	2.9	1.2										
Local Govt. Education	22.6	21.7	22.3	4.1	1.3										
Hospitals	5.7	5.6	5.6	1.8	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	
	Feb04(p)	Jan04(r)	Feb03(b)	Jan04	Feb03
				Feb04	Feb04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.0	21.0	20.5	0.0	2.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.2	17.2	16.8	0.0	2.4
GOODS PRODUCING	8.1	8.1	8.1	0.0	0.0
Natural Resources & Mining	5.9	6.0	5.8	-1.7	1.7
Construction	1.7	1.6	1.8	6.2	-5.6
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	12.9	12.9	12.4	0.0	4.0
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	1.2	0.0	8.3
Educational & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Other Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	2.7
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	19.6	19.5	19.0	0.5	3.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.4	15.3	14.8	0.7	4.1
GOODS PRODUCING	6.0	5.9	5.7	1.7	5.3
Natural Resources & Mining	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9
Construction	1.2	1.1	1.1	9.1	9.1
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.6	13.6	13.3	0.0	2.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
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	0.9	0.0	11.1
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.4	15.4	15.6	0.0	-1.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.2	13.2	13.5	0.0	-2.2
GOODS PRODUCING	2.0	2.0	2.3	0.0	-13.0
Nat. Res., Mining & Construction	1.8	1.8	2.1	0.0	-14.3
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.4	13.4	13.3	0.0	0.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	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	1.5	1.3	0.0	15.4
Educational & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5.0	5.0	5.3	0.0	-5.7
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8

State Unemployment Rates February 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.8
Alaska	8.9
Oregon	8.4
Michigan	7.3
New York	6.9
Illinois	6.8
Washington	6.8
District of Columbia	6.6
Ohio	6.6
South Carolina	6.6
California	6.5
North Carolina	6.4
West Virginia	6.4
Wisconsin	6.4
Arkansas	6.2
Rhode Island	6.2
Idaho	6.1
Kentucky	6.1
Texas	6.1
Pennsylvania	6.0
United States	6.0
Indiana	5.9
Louisiana	5.9
Maine	5.9
Colorado	5.7
Massachusetts	5.7
Alabama	5.6
Mississippi	5.6
New Jersey	5.6
New Mexico	5.6
Missouri	5.5
Oklahoma	5.5
Connecticut	5.3
Minnesota	5.3
Tennessee	5.3
Kansas	5.2
Utah	5.2
Montana	5.1
Arizona	5.0
Iowa	5.0
Nevada	4.7
Vermont	4.7
Wyoming	4.6
Florida	4.5
Maryland	4.4
New Hampshire	4.4
Nebraska	4.2
Delaware	4.1
Georgia	3.8
Hawaii	3.8
North Dakota	3.8
South Dakota	3.8
Virginia	3.6

Economic Indicators

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming increased 56.1 percent from a year earlier.

	Feb 2004 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2003 (b)	Percent Change	
				Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	273,979	272,821	271,052	0.4	1.1
Unemployed	12,585	13,411	15,040	-6.2	-16.3
Employed	261,394	259,410	256,012	0.8	2.1
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.6%/3.5%	4.9%/3.9%	5.5%/4.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	6.0%/5.6%	6.3%/5.6%	6.4%/5.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,235,000	7,123,000	7,620,000	1.6	-5.1
As a percent of all workers	5.3%	5.2%	5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	484,000	432,000	450,000	12.0	7.6
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,764,000	5,270,000	5,061,000	-9.6	-5.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$945.41	\$984.10	\$953.97	-3.9	-0.9
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.4	43.7	-0.2	-3.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$813.20	\$821.98	\$769.99	-1.1	5.6
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	44.6	43.7	-1.1	0.9
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$558.67	\$576.58	\$745.20	-3.1	-25.0
Average Weekly Hours	34.7	35.2	40.5	-1.4	-14.3
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$650.39	\$650.39	\$626.36	0.0	3.8
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	40.7	40.1	0.0	1.5
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	20,879	21,155	23,866	-1.3	-12.5
Benefits Paid	\$4,900,592	\$4,981,712	\$5,548,822	-1.6	-11.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$234.71	\$235.49	\$232.50	-0.3	1.0
State Insured Covered Jobs	221,959	221,965	217,317	0.0	2.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.5%	2.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	186.2	185.2	183.1	0.5	1.7
Housing	184.5	184.3	178.9	0.1	3.1
Apparel	187.0	186.3	183.2	0.4	2.1
Transportation	118.6	115.8	120.6	2.4	-1.7
Medical Care	158.8	157.0	158.9	1.1	-0.1
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	306.0	303.6	293.7	0.8	4.2
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	108.4	107.9	107.2	0.5	1.1
Other Goods & Services	111.2	111.1	109.7	0.1	1.4
Other Goods & Services	302.3	301.4	297.5	0.3	1.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	141.8	143.0	137.6	-0.8	3.1
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	140	134	105	4.5	33.3
Valuation	\$22,744,000	\$23,333,000	\$16,466,000	-2.5	38.1
Single Family Homes	135	72	88	88	53.4
Valuation	\$21,781,000	\$15,462,000	\$15,536,000	40.9	40.2
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	64	69	41	-7.2	56.1

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

The counties with the largest over-the-year employment growth were Natrona (1,286), Campbell (678), Park (578), and Sweetwater (543).

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2004 (p)	Jan 2003 (r)	Feb 2003 (b)									
NORTHWEST	46,082	46,054	45,289	43,346	43,133	42,067	2,736	2,921	3,222	5.9	6.3	7.1
Big Horn	5,782	5,820	5,699	5,458	5,467	5,318	324	353	381	5.6	6.1	6.7
Fremont	18,654	18,621	18,400	17,306	17,190	16,829	1,348	1,431	1,571	7.2	7.7	8.5
Hot Springs	2,172	2,162	2,177	2,075	2,053	2,060	97	109	117	4.5	5.0	5.4
Park	14,957	14,903	14,497	14,192	14,070	13,614	765	833	883	5.1	5.6	6.1
Washakie	4,517	4,548	4,516	4,315	4,353	4,246	202	195	270	4.5	4.3	6.0
NORTHEAST	47,578	47,324	46,990	45,568	45,190	44,408	2,010	2,134	2,582	4.2	4.5	5.5
Campbell	22,920	22,819	22,532	22,044	21,900	21,366	876	919	1,166	3.8	4.0	5.2
Crook	2,879	2,870	2,859	2,721	2,705	2,689	158	165	170	5.5	5.7	5.9
Johnson	3,934	3,919	3,876	3,778	3,750	3,671	156	169	205	4.0	4.3	5.3
Sheridan	14,697	14,601	14,550	14,009	13,836	13,700	688	765	850	4.7	5.2	5.8
Weston	3,148	3,115	3,173	3,016	2,999	2,982	132	116	191	4.2	3.7	6.0
SOUTHWEST	54,180	54,161	53,329	51,881	51,701	50,249	2,299	2,460	3,080	4.2	4.5	5.8
Lincoln	7,396	7,356	7,205	6,937	6,906	6,640	459	450	565	6.2	6.1	7.8
Sublette	3,660	3,667	3,403	3,567	3,568	3,294	93	99	109	2.5	2.7	3.2
Sweetwater	20,343	20,203	20,087	19,554	19,331	19,011	789	872	1,076	3.9	4.3	5.4
Teton	11,690	11,731	11,753	11,287	11,305	11,247	403	426	506	3.4	3.6	4.3
Uinta	11,091	11,204	10,881	10,536	10,591	10,057	555	613	824	5.0	5.5	7.6
SOUTHEAST	75,241	74,810	75,308	72,138	71,518	72,136	3,103	3,292	3,172	4.1	4.4	4.2
Albany	20,197	19,747	20,081	19,701	19,263	19,620	496	484	461	2.5	2.5	2.3
Goshen	6,064	6,033	6,157	5,769	5,744	5,823	295	289	334	4.9	4.8	5.4
Laramie	43,585	43,687	43,613	41,600	41,502	41,564	1,985	2,185	2,049	4.6	5.0	4.7
Niobrara	1,102	1,100	1,169	1,066	1,053	1,103	36	47	66	3.3	4.3	5.6
Platte	4,293	4,243	4,288	4,002	3,956	4,026	291	287	262	6.8	6.8	6.1
CENTRAL	50,899	50,474	50,138	48,460	47,869	47,153	2,439	2,605	2,985	4.8	5.2	6.0
Carbon	7,693	7,763	7,871	7,264	7,272	7,254	429	491	617	5.6	6.3	7.8
Converse	6,327	6,288	6,408	6,001	5,958	5,990	326	330	418	5.2	5.2	6.5
Natrona	36,879	36,423	35,859	35,195	34,639	33,909	1,684	1,784	1,950	4.6	4.9	5.4
STATEWIDE	273,979	272,821	271,052	261,394	259,410	256,012	12,585	13,411	15,040	4.6	4.9	5.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.5	3.9	4.5
U.S.....										6.0	6.3	6.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.6	5.6	5.9

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 03/04.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

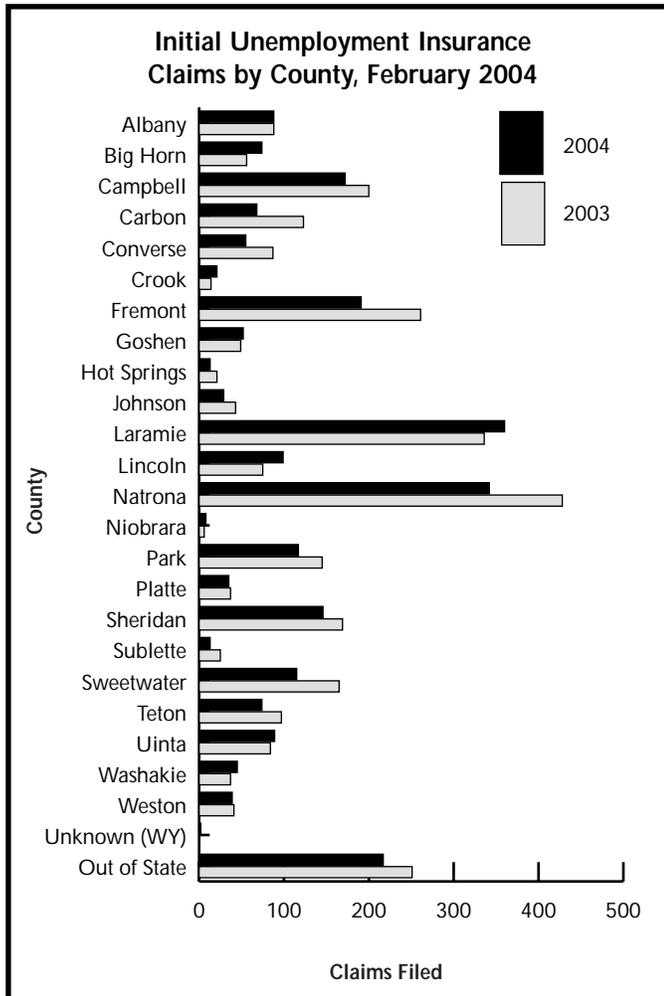
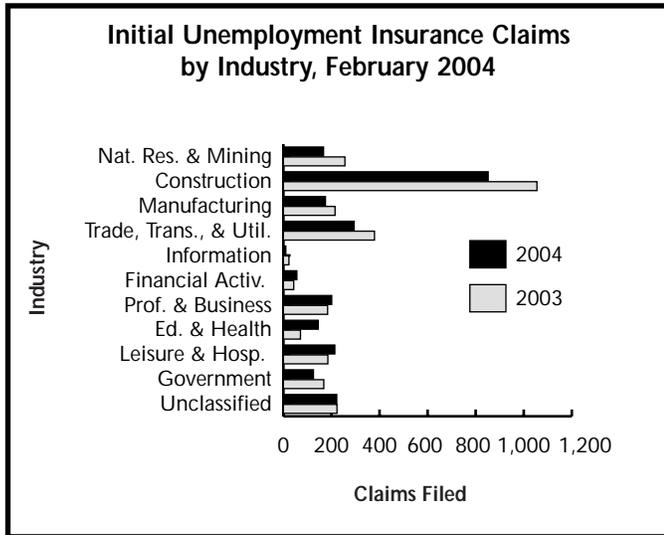
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.9 to 4.9 percent would contain the actual rate.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Statewide initial claims declined by 31.2 percent over-the-month and 13.3 percent over-the-year. This was the largest over-the-month percentage decline since January 2001.



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Feb04	Jan04	Feb03	Jan04	Feb03
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,461	3,578	2,837	-31.2	-13.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,194	1,704	1,526	-29.9	-21.8
Natural Resources and Mining	167	248	256	-32.7	-34.8
Mining	148	232	229	-36.2	-35.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	16	25	22	-36.0	-27.3
Construction	852	1,204	1,055	-29.2	-19.2
Manufacturing	175	252	215	-30.6	-18.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	958	1,385	958	-30.8	0.0
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	294	451	379	-34.8	-22.4
Wholesale Trade	37	52	47	-28.8	-21.3
Retail Trade	161	274	200	-41.2	-19.5
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	96	125	132	-23.2	-27.3
Information	10	23	23	-56.5	-56.5
Financial Activities	56	65	43	-13.8	30.2
Professional & Business Services	201	337	184	-40.4	9.2
Educational & Health Services	145	99	71	46.5	104.2
Leisure & Hospitality	214	356	185	-39.9	15.7
Other Services	38	54	73	-29.6	-47.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	125	271	168	-53.9	-25.6
Federal Government	48	131	50	-63.4	-4.0
State Government	21	27	18	-22.2	16.7
Local Government	56	113	100	-50.4	-44.0
Local Education	17	21	13	-19.0	30.8
UNCLASSIFIED	184	218	185	-15.6	-0.5

LARAMIE COUNTY

	Feb04	Jan04	Feb03	Jan04	Feb03
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	359	494	333	-27.3	7.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	164	246	162	-33.3	1.2
Construction	135	207	135	-34.8	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	159	206	129	-22.8	23.3
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	39	68	52	-42.6	-25.0
Financial Activities	14	19	7	-26.3	100.0
Professional & Business Services	69	65	29	6.2	137.9
Educational & Health Services	15	17	8	-11.8	87.5
Leisure & Hospitality	17	26	19	-34.6	-10.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	19	26	24	-26.9	-20.8
UNCLASSIFIED	17	16	18	6.3	-5.6

NATRONA COUNTY

	Feb04	Jan04	Feb03	Jan04	Feb03
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	341	425	425	-19.8	-19.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	186	176	237	5.7	-21.5
Construction	149	137	173	8.8	-13.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	141	220	168	-35.9	-16.1
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	44	50	61	-12.0	-27.9
Financial Activities	12	8	11	50.0	9.1
Professional & Business Services	35	92	46	-62.0	-23.9
Educational & Health Services	30	21	13	42.9	130.8
Leisure & Hospitality	15	40	17	-62.5	-11.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3	16	12	-81.3	-75.0
UNCLASSIFIED	11	13	8	-15.4	37.5

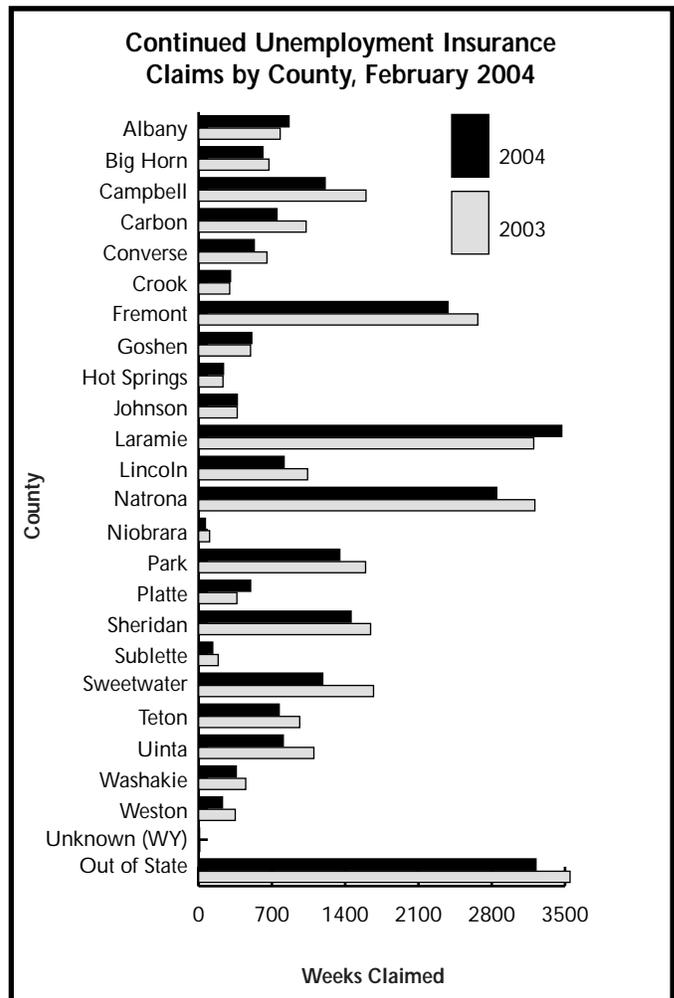
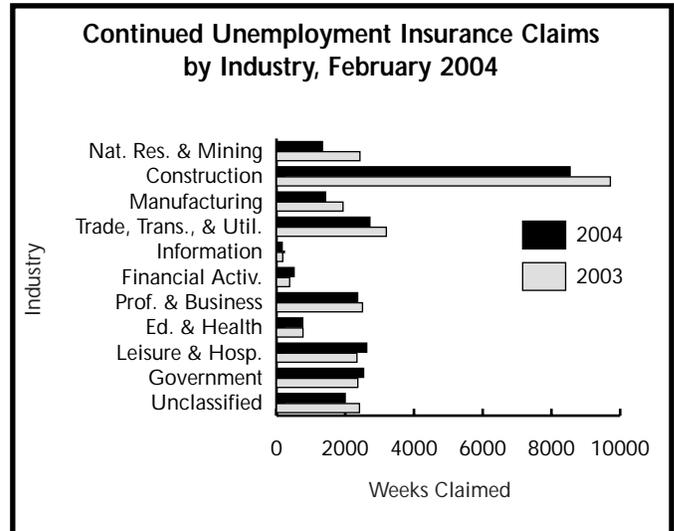
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Continued claims declined by 11.5 percent over-the-year, including substantial declines in Manufacturing and Construction. The over-the-year decrease was the largest since June 2000.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change	
	Feb04	Jan04	Feb03	Jan04	Feb03
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	24,994	24,867	28,238	0.5	-11.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	7,476	7,839	8,353	-4.6	-10.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	11,309	11,217	14,079	0.8	-19.7
Natural Resources and Mining	1,337	1,280	2,428	4.5	-44.9
Mining	1,122	1,039	2,069	8.0	-45.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	154	159	194	-3.1	-20.6
Construction	8,544	8,739	9,715	-2.2	-12.1
Manufacturing	1,428	1,198	1,936	19.2	-26.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	9,534	9,400	9,946	1.4	-4.1
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	2,718	2,615	3,197	3.9	-15.0
Wholesale Trade	394	390	412	1.0	-4.4
Retail Trade	1,612	1,528	1,908	5.5	-15.5
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	712	697	877	2.2	-18.8
Information	166	154	182	7.8	-8.8
Financial Activities	513	457	383	12.3	33.9
Professional & Business Services	2,362	2,239	2,503	5.5	-5.6
Educational & Health Services	764	857	771	-10.9	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,626	2,731	2,341	-3.8	12.2
Other Services	385	347	569	11.0	-32.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,536	2,461	2,367	3.0	7.1
Federal Government	1,300	1,241	1,182	4.8	10.0
State Government	261	260	254	0.4	2.8
Local Government	975	960	931	1.6	4.7
Local Education	174	173	227	0.6	-23.3
UNCLASSIFIED	1,615	1,789	1,846	-9.7	-12.5

LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,469	3,612	3,199	-4.0	8.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,058	1,142	962	-7.4	10.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,602	1,727	1,482	-7.2	8.1
Construction	1,372	1,488	1,269	-7.8	8.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,441	1,437	1,367	0.3	5.4
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	411	449	458	-8.5	-10.3
Financial Activities	130	90	82	44.4	58.5
Professional & Business Services	493	417	474	18.2	4.0
Educational & Health Services	148	162	98	-8.6	51.0
Leisure & Hospitality	155	182	154	-14.8	0.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	289	307	194	-5.9	49.0
UNCLASSIFIED	137	141	156	-2.8	-12.2

NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,848	3,112	3,213	-8.5	-11.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	892	1,026	993	-13.1	-10.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,306	1,606	1,655	-18.7	-21.1
Construction	1,100	1,356	1,124	-18.9	-2.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,324	1,300	1,338	1.8	-1.0
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	389	396	417	-1.8	-6.7
Financial Activities	81	69	82	17.4	-1.2
Professional & Business Services	411	396	403	3.8	2.0
Educational & Health Services	195	174	159	12.1	22.6
Leisure & Hospitality	192	204	169	-5.9	13.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	127	124	129	2.4	-1.6
UNCLASSIFIED	91	82	91	11.0	0.0



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

Official Business
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