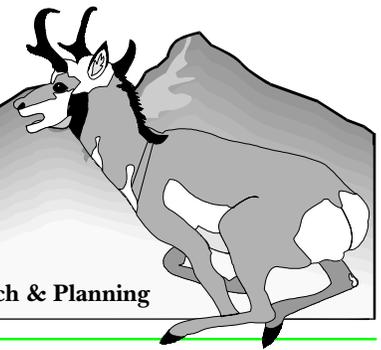


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Wyoming-Attached Workers: Living and Working in Wyoming

by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Even though their employment status is continuously changing, Wyoming-attached workers routinely return to Wyoming's labor force."

For some Wyomingites, the small cities, low population, virtually nonexistent traffic jams, clean air and open spaces are the main reasons we choose to reside in Wyoming. However, living in a state with only 487,210 people¹ can prove difficult when trying to find employment sufficient to support oneself and

one's family. Possible solutions to the challenge of earning a living in our state are to work seasonal or temporary jobs, work more than one job or change jobs as the need for higher earnings dictates. During the six-year period from 1992 to 1997, the average annual number of individuals covered under Unemployment Insurance (UI)² was

278,586. Nearly 40 percent of these people (109,686 individuals) began and ended at least five employment positions during that same time period. Developing various employment strategies is one approach to maintaining financial stability for those individuals who choose to stay in Wyoming.

Research & Planning continues its look at Wyoming's labor force attachment with part two of a five-part series. To help illustrate the topic of this part of the series, we will refer to an article that appeared in a previous issue of **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**³. The article, "The Wyoming Wage Record Classification System," introduced a method of dividing Wyoming's labor force into different categories based on employment characteristics. The data found in Table 1 was originally published in

Table 1: 1996 Wage Record Classification

Group	Count	Percent of Total
Steady Worker/Same Employer	127,982	45.2%
Steady Worker/Different Employer	10,724	3.8%
Multiple Job Holder	40,186	14.2%
Job Changer	18,512	6.5%
Two-Quarter Worker	40,487	14.3%
One-Quarter Worker	45,210	16.0%
Total	283,101	100.0%

Source: Brett Judd, "The Wyoming Wage Classification System," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, March 1998, Table 2, p. 3.

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the aforementioned article. The table shows the distribution of workers by different employment classifications. In the table, the employment groups are ranked in order of attachment from those workers with the highest attachment to those with the lowest attachment.

The time span is one important difference between the classification system used in the article "The Wyoming Wage Record Classification System," and the classification system used in the current five-part series of articles on labor force attachment. The aforementioned article analyzed employment characteristics using one year of data. Alternatively, each part of the current series of articles uses data from a six-year period (1992-1997). The difference in the time period makes certain adjustments necessary. For example, this article examines those individuals who fall into the middle range of job attachment. We will call these individuals **Wyoming-attached workers**. Wyoming-attached workers can fall into more than one of the classification groups identified in Table 1. At one point during the six-year study period, a Wyoming-attached

worker could have been a **steady worker/different employer**, a **multiple job holder**, a **job changer**, a **seasonal worker** or any combination. The only qualification is that the individual appears on Wyoming's wage records⁴ at least one quarter, once a year for the duration of the six-year study period. This article looks at the characteristics of Wyoming-attached workers and what their attachment could mean to Wyoming's economy.

Background

The database for this article was compiled using wage records and a demographics file⁵. The wage records file is a report of wages earned by an individual. Wage records list information by employer and by quarter. Consequently, every time an individual begins employment with a new employer or returns to a previous employer after termination, a new record is created detailing the employer, wages and quarter information. This means that a unique Social Security Number (SSN) can

appear several times. For example, if a person changes from one employer to another s/he will appear twice on wage records. The person would also be listed twice if s/he worked for an employer, left the company and was then rehired by the company at a later time.

For the purposes of this article, the terms **job** and **position** will be used interchangeably in order to avoid confusion. To illustrate this point, we will use an individual who spent two summers working in highway construction and one year as a bartender. Wage records would list this individual three times (one record for each employment occasion). To say that s/he held three jobs would be incorrect because highway construction might be considered one job and bartending another. It would be more correct to say that s/he held three positions. However, a change in position does not always mean a change in employment. While working as a bartender, s/he could have been promoted from assistant bartender to head bartender. A

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promotion in this situation might change the number of positions held to four, which would also be incorrect. Wage records would not recognize the promotion as a change in employment because the employer remained the same and there was no break in service. Therefore, within the context of this article, a job and a position both refer to a period of employment with a beginning and ending date (or one record on the wage records file).

We examined the wage records for each individual. The criteria for including an individual in the study were that s/he worked in Wyoming during any quarter of 1992, and was still working in Wyoming during any quarter of 1997. For the purposes of this article, only workers who held five or more jobs during the study period were included in the database. We determined that eliminating individuals having fewer than five employment changes would narrow the scope of the database and allow for better comparisons between the types of employment positions held. Additionally, in order to examine **all** employment positions held by Wyoming-attached workers, both full- and part-time work were included with no distinctions made between the two.

Table 2 shows the number of workers by the number of employment positions held per person during the 1992-97 period. As mentioned above, only individuals who held five or more positions were included in the study. Thus, five jobs are the least number held per person during the six-year study period, with 48 being the most jobs worked by an individual.

By matching SSN's in the demographics file with SSN's in wage records, we determined the age and gender of the Wyoming-attached workers included in the study. Since information in the demographics file is obtained from driver's licenses, unemployment insurance records and vocational rehabilitation files, participants in Wyoming's labor force who have an out-of-state license or have never filed for unemployment are excluded. Therefore, demographics are unavailable for some of the workers in the study group.

The Figure (see page 4) shows the distribution of Wyoming-attached workers by age and gender. The greatest concentration of Wyoming-attached workers are those aged 25 - 34 years. Since the age groups in the figure represent the age of the Wyoming-attached

Table 2: Number of Jobs Held by Wyoming-Attached Workers from 1992 to 1997

Number of Jobs Held Per Person	Number of Wyoming-Attached Workers	Total Number of Jobs Held
5	28,766	143,830
6	21,420	128,520
7	16,089	112,623
8	11,332	90,656
9	8,346	75,114
10	6,188	61,880
11	4,548	50,028
12	3,433	41,196
13	2,417	31,421
14	1,850	25,900
15	1,290	19,350
16	1,039	16,624
17	749	12,733
18	569	10,242
19	402	7,638
20	327	6,540
21	212	4,452
22	167	3,674
23	153	3,519
24	102	2,448
25	59	1,475
26	64	1,664
27	40	1,080
28	36	1,008
29	25	725
30	15	450
31	9	279
32	11	352
33	6	198
34	6	204
35	4	140
36	3	108
37	1	37
38	1	38
39	1	39
40	1	40
41	1	41
43	1	43
44	2	88
48	1	48
Totals	109,686	856,445

(Continued on page 4)

worker in 1992, these people would be 32 - 41 years old today. The largest group of Wyoming-attached workers are male (46.4%). Female workers comprise 40.2 percent of the total. Missing demographics account for the remaining 13.4 percent.

Seasonal work can influence job changing

Based on available data, it is impossible to know why a person leaves one position and begins employment elsewhere. One explanation could be that s/he is working in an occupation affected by seasonal fluctuations. Seasonal fluctuations most commonly refer to the changes in employment demand brought on by the change from summer to winter and vice versa. Since the weather in Wyoming changes so drastically from summer to winter, there is a tremendous impact on the employment levels for certain industries, such as construction and tourism.

Table 3 shows the ten most frequently occurring industry groups (two-digit SIC)⁶ for all jobs held by Wyoming-attached workers. Four of the top ten industry groups are affected by seasonal fluctuations of the weather. The industry group hotels, rooming houses, camps & other lodging places (SIC 70) usually includes occupations relating to summer or winter vacations, outdoor activities, camping, parks, etc. The other three groups affected by the weather are all part of the Construction industry. In Wyoming, the summer season

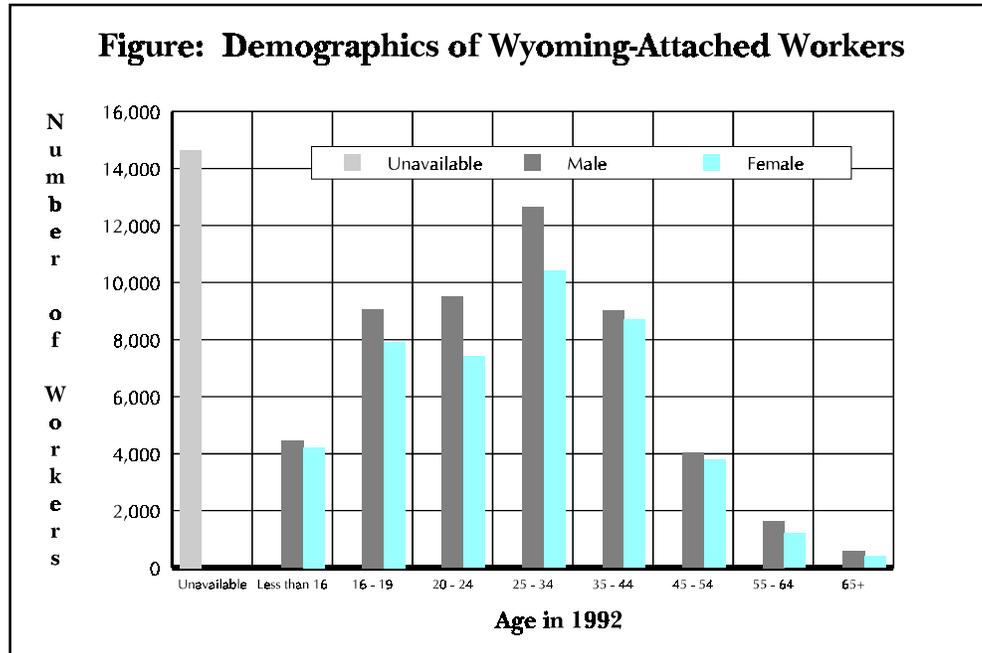


Table 3: Top Ten Most Frequently Occurring Industry Groups of Jobs Held by Wyoming-Attached Workers Detailed by Two-Digit SIC* from 1992 to 1997

Ranking	Two-Digit SIC	Industry Group	Total Number of Jobs Held
1	58	Eating & Drinking Places	119,053
2	70	Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps & Other Lodging Places	50,351
3	82	Educational Services	49,220
4	73	Business Services	49,017
5	17	Construction - Special Trade Contractors	47,494
6	16	Construction - Heavy	40,769
7	13	Oil & Gas Extraction	37,418
8	55	Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	32,959
9	80	Health Services	31,015
10	15	Construction - Building	24,004

* Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code

does not last very long, so construction companies are extremely busy and work long hours. As the weather turns colder, construction work slows significantly. In order to continue making a living in Wyoming, Wyoming-attached workers working in "seasonal" occupations must be willing to adapt as the seasons dictate by changing jobs, relocating or performing different duties within a company.

with it, some Wyoming-attached workers may choose to work seasonally because it gives them an opportunity to earn a salary for an activity they particularly enjoy. Wyoming is an excellent place for finding employment that many people would consider more fun than work. For example, a person might spend the summer working "odd jobs" in order to work as a ski instructor all winter. Alternatively, someone interested in

Despite the uncertainty associated

(Continued on page 5)

hunting could work as a guide during hunting season. For some people, the opportunity of earning a living through recreation is worth the sacrifice of having to change employment frequently or work multiple jobs.

Seasonal fluctuations can also refer to other cyclical patterns as well. The third highest frequency of job change occurs in educational service industries (SIC 82). The annual transition between school year and summer vacation accounts for most job changes in this industry group. A number of teachers, administrators and others involved in running our schools work second jobs during the summer break. Individuals other than those working in educational services might be affected by school year fluctuations as well. For example, students who work during the summer months or who work part-time and go to school in the fall also appear likely to experience employment changes as they leave and/or return to school. The fact that individuals working in educational services change employment positions according to the school year is common across the United States and Wyoming is no exception.

Supplementing incomes to stay in Wyoming

Wyoming's wages are some of the lowest in the country; in 1997, Per Capita Personal Income (PCPI) ranked 35th in the nation⁷. In order to make ends meet, relocating to a state with higher wages would seem a logical choice. Of course, the higher wages in other states are too often accompanied by higher population density and its commensurate levels of traffic, crime, pollution and many other attributes to which we, in Wyoming, are not accustomed. Wyomingites

seem to prefer the benefits of smaller cities and fewer people. Unfortunately, the small labor force, the isolation and the lack of adequate commercial transportation may also keep some businesses and high-paying positions from coming into the state. Many Wyoming-attached workers have come up with one solution to the problem of earning enough money to support themselves and their families while still being able to live and work in Wyoming. They sustain their income by working more than one job at a time.

The industry group eating and drinking establishments (SIC 58) has the highest frequency of jobs held by Wyoming-attached workers. These types of jobs are readily available and do not require specialized skills, which is why Wyoming-attached workers might choose to work in this industry group when looking to supplement their income. Once the skills required for these types of occupations are learned, they are transferrable among a variety of similar establishments. Wyoming-attached workers already working a full-time job might choose to work in eating and drinking establishments because these establishments often have flexible hours and are willing to work around an individual's existing employment schedule. Eating and drinking establishments are not the only places individuals look for an additional job. Every industry includes both full- and part-time occupations that can be used to supplement income.

Industrial and geographic attachment among Wyoming-attached workers

There seems to be a preference among Wyoming-attached workers to stay with the same type of work.

Of Wyoming-attached workers, 42.9 percent (47,022) are attached to a specific major industry group at least 50 percent of the time. For example, a person may have worked ten different jobs, but at least five of them would be in the same industry group, such as eating and drinking establishments. This might indicate that even though Wyoming-attached workers are changing employment, the new positions are usually similar to previous positions. One reason Wyoming-attached workers might look for work in similar industries is to capitalize on their previous experience. By developing specific job skills, Wyoming-attached workers may be able to earn higher wages because employers tend to pay higher salaries to experienced employees.

Wyoming-attached workers also tend to stay within a particular county. Nearly 78.2 percent (85,798) of all Wyoming-attached workers were employed in the same county at least 50 percent of the time. There are several possible reasons a Wyoming-attached worker might choose to stay in one area. For example, it is likely that many county-attached workers are homeowners and are unwilling to sell their houses. It could be that her/his spouse is unable to relocate, so the Wyoming-attached worker may be limited to position openings within her/his area. Wyoming-attached workers might also be tied to a certain area if s/he does not want her/his children to have to change schools. Some Wyoming-attached workers may choose to stay in a certain county because their parents or other family members live in the area. Perhaps the Wyoming-attached worker grew up in the area and is unwilling to leave her/his home town. Because

(Continued on page 6)

Wyoming has such a variety of landscapes and scenery, a Wyoming-attached worker might choose to live and work in a specific area for that reason alone.

What can we conclude?

Wyoming-attached workers are an important component of Wyoming's economy. Even though their employment status is continuously changing, Wyoming-attached workers routinely return to Wyoming's labor force. They provide support to the communities where they live and work by putting their salaries back into the local economy. Because of Wyoming-attached workers' willingness to remain in Wyoming, they are a potentially valuable source of currently underutilized labor available to new businesses. They are willing participants in the Wyoming labor force, as evidenced by their continued presence in Wyoming's wage record files. Wyoming-attached workers have skills and experience that could be used by new businesses to start an operation here in Wyoming and new businesses would have a strong indication that their employees would continue to live and work here.

Wyoming-attached workers themselves may look to new businesses as a way of gaining a permanent position. For Wyoming-attached workers who must continually look for new jobs as employment conditions change, a position in a steady work environment might prove ideal. A new business in the right location may turn out to have long-term employment potential for a county-attached worker.

For individuals having difficulty finding work or for participants in Vocational Rehabilitation, a

Wyoming-attached worker might be a valuable source of information on how to successfully enter the labor market. The Wyoming-attached workers in our study held at least five jobs during the six-year study period. Their experience and skills in areas of finding work and getting hired might be helpful to someone who has been less than successful in securing employment.

Wyoming-attached workers are significant members of our labor force. These people have been participants in the Wyoming workforce for at least six years and many for a great deal longer. Based on their attachment to Wyoming, there is a good chance that many Wyoming-attached workers will continue to be involved in their communities and in the Wyoming labor market for years to come. Consequently, it may be worthwhile to look towards these members of the labor market who are constantly changing their employment situations as a better indicator of potential labor rather than focusing entirely on the unemployment rate as an indicator of labor availability.

1 1998 population estimate, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

2 UI covered employment does not include individuals who are unemployed or not covered by Unemployment Insurance, such as self-employed and agricultural workers.

3 Brett Judd, "The Wyoming Wage Classification System," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, March 1998, pp. 1-3.

4 Wayne M. Gosar, "Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Record Summary Statistics: A New Way To Look At Wyoming," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, May

1995, pp. 4-5.

5 Demographic information is obtained from a number of source databases including: driver's licenses, unemployment insurance records and vocational rehabilitation files.

6 The major industry group or **two-digit SIC** refers to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding system. The system consists of four levels of classification, with the fourth level listing specific industries. The first level separates firms or businesses into one of ten different industry divisions (Agriculture; Mining; Construction; Manufacturing; Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities; Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate; Services; Public Administration.) The second level (two-digit) separates the occupations within each industry division into major industry groups (such as forestry within Agriculture, coal mining within Mining, building construction - general contractors & operative builders within Construction and furniture & fixtures within Manufacturing).

7 Refer to "Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Facts (BEARFACTS): Wyoming 1996-97" website (<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/stbf9697/56000.htm>).

The May issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* will present part three in this series of five articles analyzing labor force attachment, focussing on workers attached to the Wyoming labor market and to one specific employer.



Seasonal Variation in Separation from the Wyoming Labor Market?

by: Valerie A. Davis, Senior Statistician

Separations from the Wyoming labor market¹ can be broken out by county. The Map shows separation rates² by county for 1995. Do people leaving the labor market and seasonal³ changes coincide?

The seasonal percent change⁴ in employment showed that Crook, Park, Sublette, Teton and Uinta Counties had the highest levels of seasonal variation. Of these, four also had the highest separation rates and three had Services as the industry with the most employment. Retail Trade and Services are highly seasonal industries.

With separation rates between 16.1 and 18.8 percent, three of these six counties had the lowest seasonal variations. Only one of those three counties had the most

employment in Retail Trade.

There were six counties that had separation rates between 14.6 and 16.0 percent (Albany, Fremont, Hot Springs, Niobrara, Sheridan and Weston). Of these counties, two had the highest seasonal variation and only one had Services as the industry with the greatest employment.

Six counties had separation rates of 10.5 to 14.5 percent (Campbell, Converse, Natrona, Sublette, Sweetwater and Washakie). Only one of these had high seasonal variation and the most employment in Local Government.

This information suggests that no relationship exists between seasonal variation and separations from the labor market. When a person

leaves the labor market, it does not appear to relate to seasonal changes.

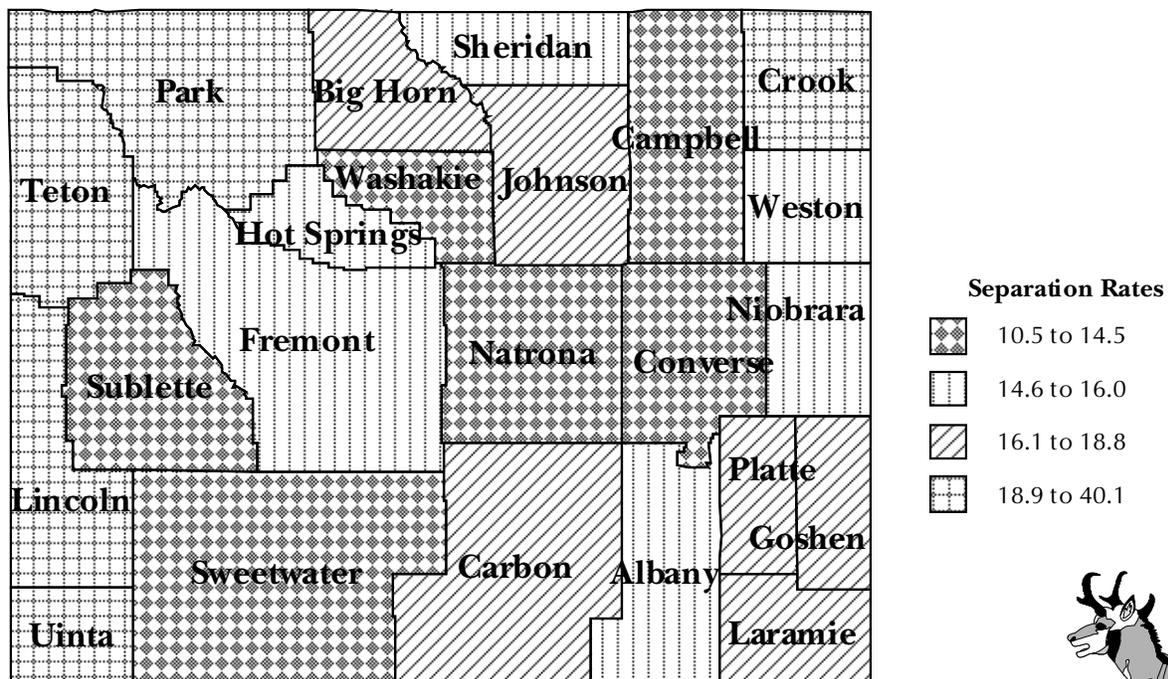
1 G. Lee Saathoff, "Separation from the Labor Market," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, March 1999, pp. 1-5.

2 **Separation Rate:** The number of separations per county in 1995 divided by the annual average employment (found in *1995 Annual Covered Employment and Wages*) and then multiplied by 100.

3 **Seasonal (seasonality):** The rise or fall of employment levels in certain industries because of tourism, the weather or holidays (especially Christmas) each year.

4 Valerie Davis, "Seasonal Variation of Employment in Wyoming," *Trends*, February 1999, p. 13.

Map: Wyoming Separation Rates by County in 1995



Sources: 1994 - 1997 Wage Records and 1995 Annual Covered Employment and Wages. Map created on Atlas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Incorporated (ESRI).



Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 1998

Source: ES-202 Report Run Date: February 1999 Prepared 3/19/99 by: Nancy Brennan Text by: David Bullard

Wyoming's economy produced 1,977 jobs during third quarter 1998 for a growth rate of 0.9 percent (see Table 1). The Services industry produced the most new jobs, adding 1,414 employees or 2.7 percent. Despite job losses in Mining and two of the three government sectors, all industries had healthy gains in total payroll and average weekly wage. The industries with the largest gains in average weekly wage were Agriculture (up \$25 or 8.4%), Local Government (up \$26 or 6.5%) and Retail Trade (up \$16 or 6.3%). The lowest gain in average weekly wage was in Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU) which increased 2.7%; even this rate exceeded inflation for the quarter.

After increasing in second quarter 1998, Mining employment fell during third quarter. When compared with third quarter 1997, Mining employment lost 401 jobs or 2.3 percent (see Table 1). Compar-

ing Table 3 (see page 9) with the 1997 Mining series¹ shows that the job losses started in July (-149 jobs), grew in August (-449 jobs) increased even further in September 1998 (-604 jobs).

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) had the largest percent increase of all industries (4.7%). While security brokers (SIC² 62) and insurance agents (SIC 64) had little or no growth, depository institutions (SIC 60), nondepository credit institutions (SIC 61), insurance carriers (SIC 63) and real estate (SIC 65) each added about 100 new jobs.

Table 2 (see page 9) shows that Teton County had the largest number of new jobs in the quarter (533), followed by Campbell (511 jobs) and Laramie Counties (357 jobs). Natrona County, which had the largest number of new jobs in second quarter (735), only had 30 new jobs in third quarter. A large part of this slowdown in growth

appears to be associated with job losses in Local Government.

When viewed from a geographic perspective, the largest wage gains were in Teton County (8.1%), Fremont County (7.5%) and Natrona County (6.9%). Two counties had decreases in their average weekly wages for third quarter. Lincoln County, where employment fell 1.4 percent, saw its average weekly wage fall \$17 or 3.9 percent. It appears that this drop in employment and earnings is related to job losses in Mining. Hot Springs County's employment fell slightly (down 0.6 percent) and its average weekly wage fell \$2 or 0.5 percent.

1 Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning Section, *Annual Covered Employment and Wages*, 1997, p. 29.

2 Standard Industrial Classification code. Please refer to footnote six of the previous article (see page 6) for more information.

Table 1: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Third Quarter 1998 by Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter 1998		Change No. Percent		Third Quarter 1998		Change No. Percent		Third Quarter 1998		Change No. Percent	
Total	227,791	225,815	1,977	0.9%	\$1,380,576,671	\$1,309,171,410	\$71,405,261	5.5%	\$466	\$446	\$20	4.5%
Total Private	178,123	175,946	2,177	1.2%	\$1,053,550,623	\$998,999,312	\$54,551,311	5.5%	\$455	\$437	\$18	4.2%
Agriculture	3,660	3,628	32	0.9	15,530,052	14,200,961	1,329,091	9.4	326	301	25	8.4
Mining	17,108	17,508	-401	-2.3	201,450,350	195,788,662	5,661,688	2.9	906	860	46	5.3
Construction	17,837	17,448	388	2.2	121,067,146	112,179,780	8,887,366	7.9	522	495	28	5.6
Manufacturing	11,141	10,996	145	1.3	87,417,918	83,532,053	3,885,865	4.7	604	584	19	3.3
TCPU*	11,296	11,181	115	1.0	94,571,970	91,106,846	3,465,124	3.8	644	627	17	2.7
Wholesale Trade	7,807	7,772	35	0.5	58,563,973	55,236,845	3,327,128	6.0	577	547	30	5.5
Retail Trade	47,620	47,482	138	0.3	163,966,240	153,844,684	10,121,556	6.6	265	249	16	6.3
FIRE**	8,724	8,332	392	4.7	61,481,829	56,074,902	5,406,927	9.6	542	518	24	4.7
Services	52,931	51,517	1,414	2.7	249,501,145	237,034,579	12,466,566	5.3	363	354	9	2.4
Total Government	49,668	49,869	-201	-0.4%	\$327,026,048	\$310,172,098	\$16,853,950	5.4%	\$506	\$478	\$28	5.9%
Local Government	30,324	30,487	-163	-0.5	170,207,256	160,622,041	9,585,215	6.0	432	405	26	6.5
State Government	11,663	11,754	-91	-0.8	82,854,639	79,756,999	3,097,640	3.9	546	522	25	4.7
Federal Government	7,681	7,627	54	0.7	73,964,153	69,793,058	4,171,095	6.0	741	704	37	5.2

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Third Quarter 1998 by Region and County

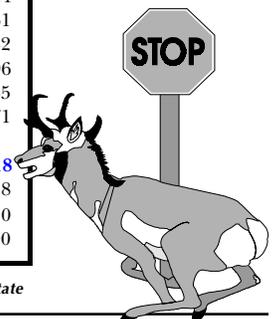
	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent
Total	227,791	225,815	1,977	0.9%	\$1,380,576,671	\$1,309,171,410	\$71,405,261	5.5%	\$466	\$446	\$20	4.5%
Northwest	36,014	36,123	-109	-0.3%	\$195,254,228	\$186,678,510	\$8,575,718	4.6%	\$417	\$398	\$20	4.9%
Big Horn	3,817	3,890	-74	-1.9	22,414,291	21,576,698	837,593	3.9	452	427	25	5.9
Fremont	13,406	13,320	86	0.6	71,389,935	65,959,504	5,430,431	8.2	410	381	29	7.5
Hot Springs	2,017	2,029	-12	-0.6	8,912,236	9,008,056	-95,820	-1.1	340	342	-2	-0.5
Park	13,047	13,213	-166	-1.3	70,009,701	68,347,185	1,662,516	2.4	413	398	15	3.7
Washakie	3,727	3,671	56	1.5	22,528,065	21,787,067	740,998	3.4	465	456	8	1.9
Northeast	34,546	34,094	452	1.3%	\$223,018,408	\$211,201,165	\$11,817,243	5.6%	\$497	\$477	\$20	4.2%
Campbell	17,143	16,632	511	3.1	134,997,017	124,183,666	10,813,351	8.7	606	574	31	5.5
Crook	1,940	1,986	-46	-2.3	9,988,097	10,064,520	-76,423	-0.8	396	390	6	1.6
Johnson	2,663	2,674	-12	-0.4	12,108,021	12,044,183	63,838	0.5	350	346	3	1.0
Sheridan	10,681	10,693	-12	-0.1	55,154,335	54,323,044	831,291	1.5	397	391	6	1.6
Weston	2,119	2,108	11	0.5	10,770,938	10,585,752	185,186	1.7	391	386	5	1.2
Southwest	53,304	52,347	958	1.8%	\$350,440,082	\$330,486,299	\$19,953,783	6.0%	\$506	\$486	\$20	4.1%
Lincoln	5,017	5,086	-69	-1.4	27,591,758	29,106,023	-1,514,265	-5.2	423	440	-17	-3.9
Sublette	2,239	2,275	-36	-1.6	11,843,922	12,019,649	-175,727	-1.5	407	406	0	0.1
Sweetwater	19,754	19,286	468	2.4	157,971,616	150,109,076	7,862,540	5.2	615	599	16	2.7
Teton	17,936	17,403	533	3.1	103,490,667	92,892,232	10,598,435	11.4	444	411	33	8.1
Uinta	8,358	8,297	61	0.7	49,542,119	46,359,319	3,182,800	6.9	456	430	26	6.1
Southeast	56,342	55,835	507	0.9%	\$323,575,394	\$308,826,557	\$14,748,837	4.8%	\$442	\$425	\$16	3.8%
Albany	13,580	13,411	169	1.3	75,563,830	71,745,617	3,818,213	5.3	428	412	17	4.0
Goshen	3,813	3,853	-40	-1.0	18,681,122	17,673,636	1,007,486	5.7	377	353	24	6.8
Laramie	34,978	34,621	357	1.0	209,522,982	200,136,507	9,386,475	4.7	461	445	16	3.6
Niobrara	837	774	63	8.2	3,542,789	3,257,806	284,983	8.7	326	324	2	0.5
Platte	3,134	3,176	-42	-1.3	16,264,671	16,012,991	251,680	1.6	399	388	11	2.9
Central	40,791	41,075	-284	-0.7%	\$244,147,487	\$231,838,132	\$12,309,355	5.3%	\$460	\$434	\$26	6.0%
Carbon	6,454	6,685	-231	-3.5	35,828,550	35,799,639	28,911	0.1	427	412	15	3.7
Converse	4,384	4,467	-83	-1.9	26,039,283	25,697,397	341,886	1.3	457	443	14	3.2
Natrona	29,953	29,924	30	0.1	182,279,654	170,341,096	11,938,558	7.0	468	438	30	6.9
Nonclassified	6,794	6,341	453	7.1%	\$44,141,072	\$40,140,747	\$4,000,325	10.0%	\$500	\$487	\$13	2.6%

Table 3: Wyoming Monthly Employment for 1998 by Industry

	1998 Monthly Employment								
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Total	210,244	209,695	210,977	214,856	224,886	231,339	227,724	227,917	227,733
Total Private	156,955	156,211	157,060	160,463	169,321	177,465	180,408	180,247	173,715
Agriculture	2,487	2,505	2,708	3,210	3,661	3,902	3,901	3,693	3,387
Mining	17,421	17,061	16,895	16,442	16,769	17,138	17,266	17,232	16,825
Construction	13,204	12,947	13,284	14,663	17,270	17,614	17,916	18,030	17,564
Manufacturing	10,626	10,599	10,437	10,573	10,719	11,027	11,124	11,175	11,124
TCPU*	10,763	10,850	10,810	10,842	11,023	11,195	11,310	11,346	11,231
Wholesale Trade	7,618	7,670	7,766	7,796	7,915	7,972	7,920	7,820	7,682
Retail Trade	42,406	42,112	42,288	43,152	45,534	47,432	48,091	48,273	46,496
FIRE**	8,254	8,261	8,361	8,432	8,579	8,723	8,780	8,756	8,635
Services	44,176	44,206	44,511	45,353	47,851	52,462	54,100	53,922	50,771
Total Government	53,289	53,484	53,917	54,393	55,565	53,874	47,316	47,670	54,018
Local Government	35,116	35,462	35,871	36,167	36,698	34,634	27,843	28,210	34,918
State Government	11,525	11,453	11,461	11,543	11,718	11,635	11,704	11,675	11,610
Federal Government	6,648	6,569	6,585	6,683	7,149	7,605	7,769	7,785	7,490

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

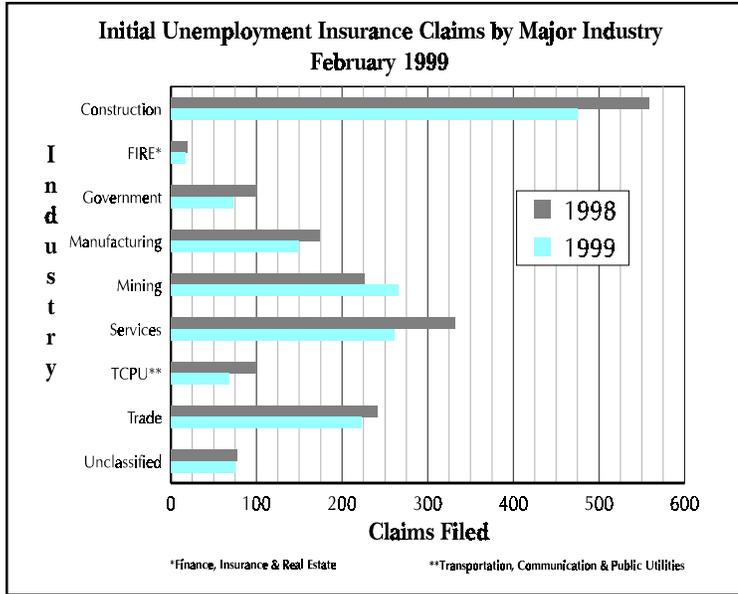
** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate



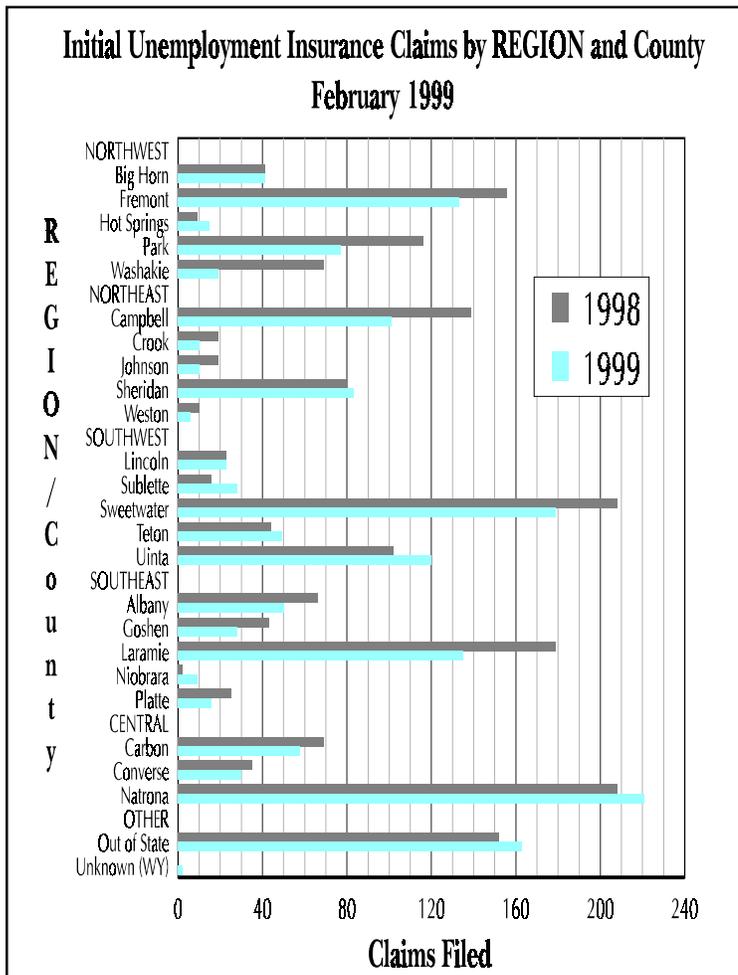
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Initial claims filed in Wholesale Trade increased for the second month in a row (up 15.6% from February 1998 to 1999). Initial claims increased in the Mining industry as well over the same time period (up 17.3%)."



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	FEB 99	JAN 99	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,607	2,297	1,829	-30.0	-12.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	890	1,293	959	-31.2	-7.2
Manufacturing	150	151	174	-0.7	-13.8
Mining	265	344	226	-23.0	17.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	252	320	214	-21.3	17.8
Construction	475	798	559	-40.5	-15.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	642	906	792	-29.1	-18.9
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	68	105	99	-35.2	-31.3
Transportation	58	87	82	-33.3	-29.3
Communications & Public Utilities	10	17	16	-41.2	-37.5
Trade	223	298	241	-25.2	-7.5
Wholesale Trade	37	42	32	-11.9	15.6
Retail Trade	186	256	209	-27.3	-11.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	17	27	19	-37.0	-10.5
Services	261	336	332	-22.3	-21.4
Personal & Business Services	74	91	100	-18.7	-26.0
Health Services	43	34	57	26.5	-24.6
Government	73	140	101	-47.9	-27.7
Local Government	30	53	41	-43.4	-26.8
Local Education	6	10	18	-40.0	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	75	98	78	-23.5	-3.8



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	FEB 99	JAN 99	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	136	236	179	-42.4	-24.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	59	133	74	-55.6	-20.3
Manufacturing	8	15	8	-46.7	0.0
Mining	3	3	0	0.0	N/A
Oil & Gas Extraction	3	3	0	0.0	N/A
Construction	48	115	66	-58.3	-27.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	69	92	97	-25.0	-28.9
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	9	19	8	-52.6	12.5
Transportation	5	10	6	-50.0	-16.7
Communications & Public Utilities	3	9	1	-66.7	200.0
Trade	22	23	42	-4.3	-47.6
Wholesale Trade	2	3	0	-33.3	N/A
Retail Trade	19	20	42	-5.0	-54.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3	6	3	-50.0	0.0
Services	29	28	31	3.6	-6.5
Personal & Business Services	12	9	12	33.3	0.0
Health Services	6	8	6	-25.0	0.0
Government	6	16	13	-62.5	-53.8
Local Government	2	5	2	-60.0	0.0
Local Education	0	1	2	-100.0	-100.0
UNCLASSIFIED	8	11	8	-27.3	0.0
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	220	301	206	-26.9	6.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	104	158	108	-34.2	-3.7
Manufacturing	24	24	18	0.0	33.3
Mining	38	51	35	-25.5	8.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	35	48	30	-27.1	16.7
Construction	42	83	55	-49.4	-23.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	108	133	92	-18.8	17.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	11	11	12	0.0	-8.3
Transportation	10	10	9	0.0	11.1
Communications & Public Utilities	1	2	3	-50.0	-66.7
Trade	44	51	17	-13.7	158.8
Wholesale Trade	16	12	5	33.3	220.0
Retail Trade	28	39	12	-28.2	133.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4	3	4	33.3	0.0
Services	45	61	56	-26.2	-19.6
Personal & Business Services	13	19	17	-31.6	-23.5
Health Services	10	11	14	-9.1	-28.6
Government	4	7	3	-42.9	33.3
Local Government	3	6	1	-50.0	200.0
Local Education	1	3	1	-66.7	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	8	10	6	-20.0	33.3

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Wyoming's Unemployment Insurance continued claims increased again (up 5.5% from February 1998 to 1999). This increase, and that which occurred last month, follow 23 months of consecutive decreases."

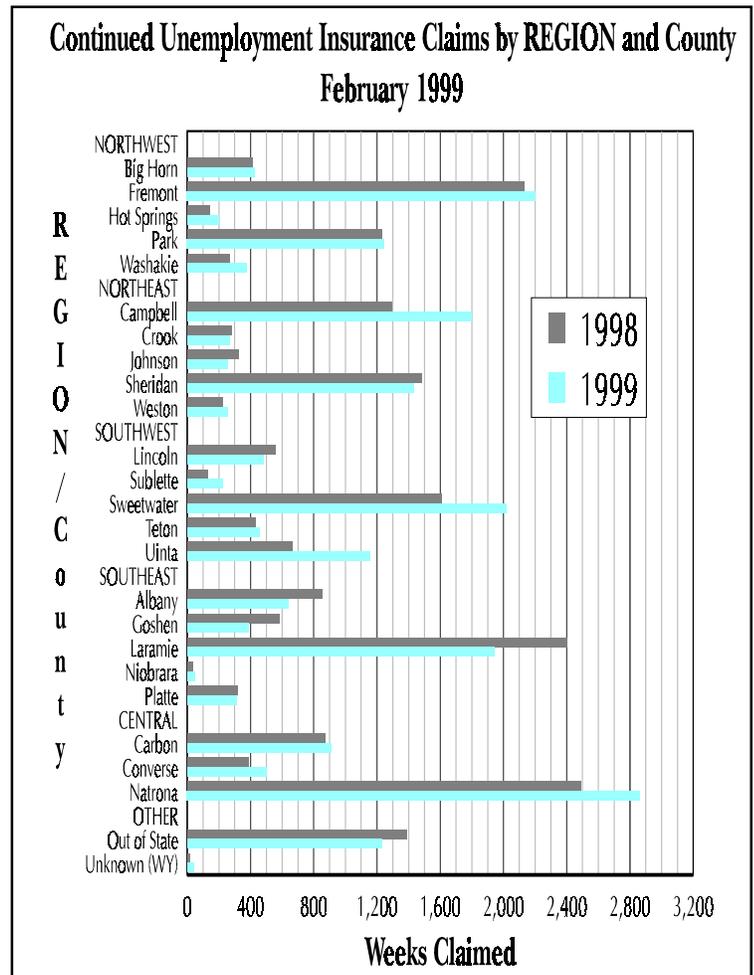
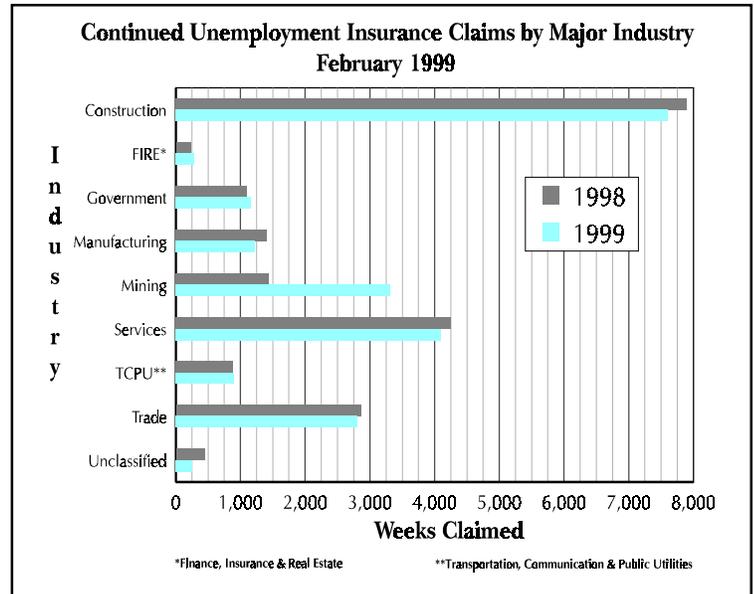
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	FEB 99	JAN 99	FEB 98	JAN 99	FEB 98
	FEB 99	JAN 99	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	21,644	20,106	20,508	7.6	5.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,526	5,514	6,102	18.4	6.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	12,140	11,262	10,748	7.8	13.0
Manufacturing	1,220	1,206	1,407	1.2	-13.3
Mining	3,318	2,748	1,438	20.7	130.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	3,027	2,451	1,282	23.5	136.1
Construction	7,602	7,308	7,903	4.0	-3.8
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	9,252	8,581	9,313	7.8	-0.7
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	897	756	881	18.7	1.8
Transportation	756	642	701	17.8	7.8
Communications & Public Utilities	142	114	180	24.6	-21.1
Trade	2,799	2,547	2,863	9.9	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	439	387	355	13.4	23.7
Retail Trade	2,360	2,160	2,508	9.3	-5.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	289	257	228	12.5	26.8
Services	4,103	3,801	4,243	7.9	-3.3
Personal & Business Services	1,158	1,036	1,141	11.8	1.5
Health Services	406	372	360	9.1	12.8
Government	1,164	1,220	1,098	-4.6	6.0
Local Government	665	680	598	-2.2	11.2
Local Education	130	165	172	-21.2	-24.4
UNCLASSIFIED	252	263	447	-4.2	-43.6

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,943	2,139	2,399	-9.2	-19.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	603	580	723	4.0	-16.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,097	1,249	1,372	-12.2	-20.0
Manufacturing	86	108	88	-20.4	-2.3
Mining	11	23	71	-52.2	-84.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	6	18	71	-66.7	-91.5
Construction	1,000	1,118	1,213	-10.6	-17.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	815	859	999	-5.1	-18.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	115	100	116	15.0	-0.9
Transportation	75	70	93	7.1	-19.4
Communications & Public Utilities	40	30	23	33.3	73.9
Trade	280	323	364	-13.3	-23.1
Wholesale Trade	28	42	41	-33.3	-31.7
Retail Trade	252	281	323	-10.3	-22.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	47	60	23	-21.7	104.3
Services	298	306	414	-2.6	-28.0
Personal & Business Services	102	103	196	-1.0	-48.0
Health Services	76	62	18	22.6	322.2
Government	75	70	82	7.1	-8.5
Local Government	28	34	32	-17.6	-12.5
Local Education	11	10	19	10.0	-42.1
UNCLASSIFIED	31	31	28	0.0	10.7

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,864	2,897	2,489	-1.1	15.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	869	802	760	8.4	14.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,543	1,675	1,279	-7.9	20.6
Manufacturing	120	196	165	-38.8	-27.3
Mining	480	440	217	9.1	121.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	418	366	172	14.2	143.0
Construction	943	1,039	897	-9.2	5.1
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	1,293	1,186	1,173	9.0	10.2
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	108	106	97	1.9	11.3
Transportation	93	92	67	1.1	38.8
Communications & Public Utilities	15	14	30	7.1	-50.0
Trade	415	358	329	15.9	26.1
Wholesale Trade	113	81	57	39.5	98.2
Retail Trade	302	277	272	9.0	11.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	52	49	36	6.1	44.4
Services	599	553	642	8.3	-6.7
Personal & Business Services	193	182	222	6.0	-13.1
Health Services	127	116	127	9.5	0.0
Government	119	120	69	-0.8	72.5
Local Government	97	105	40	-7.6	142.5
Local Education	37	44	8	-15.9	362.5
UNCLASSIFIED	28	36	37	-22.2	-24.3

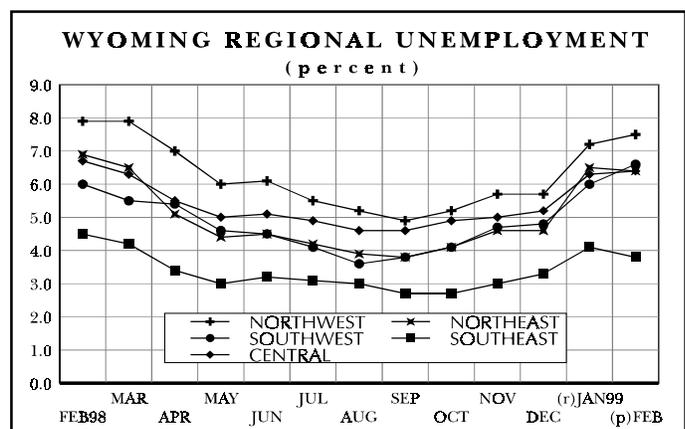
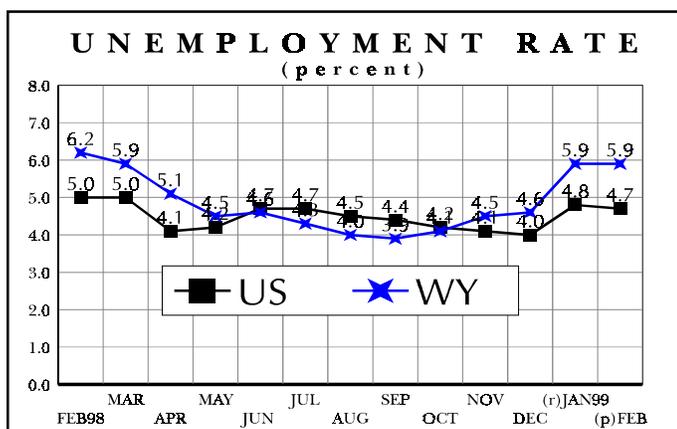


Wyoming Economic Indicators

"Wyoming's total civilian labor force (the sum of the employed and the unemployed) increased 2.1 percent from February 1998 to 1999. The number of employed increased 2.4 percent over this time."

	February 1999 ----- (p)-----	January 1999 ----- (r)-----	February 1998 ----- (b)-----	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	256,777	254,907	251,582	0.7	2.1
Unemployed	15,219	14,915	15,655	2.0	-2.8
Employed	241,558	239,992	235,927	0.7	2.4
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.9%/4.6%	5.9%/4.6%	6.2%/4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.7%/4.4%	4.8%/4.3%	5.0%/4.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,044,000	7,897,000	7,877,000	1.9	2.1
As a percent of all workers	6.1%	6.0%	6.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	271,000	339,000	361,000	-20.1	-24.9
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,594,000	3,815,000	4,042,000	-5.8	-11.1
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$821.71	\$824.32	\$856.04	-0.3	-4.0
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	43.8	47.4	1.4	-2.7
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$745.15	\$732.17	\$743.16	1.8	0.3
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.2	44.0	1.4	-2.7
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$630.42	\$625.65	\$595.60	0.8	5.8
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	40.6	40.0	-1.7	-0.3
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$564.16	\$564.57	\$559.20	-0.1	0.9
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	41.3	41.7	0.0	-1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	19,641	18,428	17,473	6.6	12.4
Benefits Paid	\$3,607,040	\$3,379,974	\$3,026,581	6.7	19.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$183.65	\$183.41	\$173.21	0.1	6.0
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	199,832	200,098	196,899	-0.1	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.5%	2.4%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	164.5	164.3	161.9	0.1	1.6
Food & Beverages	163.8	163.9	159.8	-0.1	2.5
Housing	162.3	161.8	158.8	0.3	2.2
Apparel	129.7	127.9	131.9	1.4	-1.7
Transportation	139.8	140.4	142.1	-0.4	-1.6
Medical Care	247.7	246.6	239.3	0.4	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	101.8	101.7	100.7	0.1	1.1
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	100.9	100.9	99.8	0.0	1.1
Other Goods & Services	255.0	255.4	233.1	-0.2	9.4
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	122.4	123.2	125.0	-0.6	-2.1

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
 (1) Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. (2) Not Normalized.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

data produced by: David Bullard, Economist

"The unemployment rate for Wyoming remained steady from January to February 1999 at 5.9 percent. The rate for the U.S. was virtually unchanged as well (4.8% in January and 4.7% in February)."

REGION COUNTY	<u>Labor Force</u>			<u>Employed</u>			<u>Unemployed</u>			<u>Unemployment Rates</u>		
	Feb 1999 (p)	Jan 1999 (r)	Feb 1998 (b)	Feb 1999 (p)	Jan 1999 (r)	Feb 1998 (b)	Feb 1999 (p)	Jan 1999 (r)	Feb 1998 (b)	Feb 1999 (p)	Jan 1999 (r)	Feb 1998 (b)
Northwest	44,771	44,328	44,043	41,409	41,126	40,564	3,362	3,202	3,479	7.5	7.2	7.9
Big Horn	5,981	5,895	5,741	5,549	5,479	5,347	432	416	394	7.2	7.1	6.9
Fremont	17,521	17,259	17,299	15,895	15,717	15,500	1,626	1,542	1,799	9.3	8.9	10.4
Hot Springs	2,356	2,375	2,284	2,217	2,230	2,158	139	145	126	5.9	6.1	5.5
Park	13,818	13,769	13,833	13,004	12,959	12,933	814	810	900	5.9	5.9	6.5
Washakie	5,095	5,030	4,886	4,744	4,741	4,626	351	289	260	6.9	5.7	5.3
Northeast	43,116	42,800	42,038	40,366	39,997	39,144	2,750	2,803	2,894	6.4	6.5	6.9
Campbell	19,514	19,510	19,019	18,322	18,211	17,847	1,192	1,299	1,172	6.1	6.7	6.2
Crook	2,838	2,846	2,748	2,628	2,625	2,513	210	221	235	7.4	7.8	8.6
Johnson	3,533	3,489	3,488	3,361	3,325	3,265	172	164	223	4.9	4.7	6.4
Sheridan	13,731	13,530	13,519	12,821	12,652	12,483	910	878	1,036	6.6	6.5	7.7
Weston	3,500	3,425	3,264	3,234	3,184	3,036	266	241	228	7.6	7.0	7.0
Southwest	51,972	51,405	50,598	48,563	48,343	47,554	3,409	3,062	3,044	6.6	6.0	6.0
Lincoln	5,977	5,977	6,056	5,543	5,521	5,583	434	456	473	7.3	7.6	7.8
Sublette	2,905	2,895	2,727	2,753	2,764	2,615	152	131	112	5.2	4.5	4.1
Sweetwater	21,827	21,563	21,147	20,214	20,111	19,697	1,613	1,452	1,450	7.4	6.7	6.9
Teton	10,134	9,999	9,989	9,861	9,776	9,741	273	223	248	2.7	2.2	2.5
Uinta	11,129	10,971	10,679	10,192	10,171	9,918	937	800	761	8.4	7.3	7.1
Southeast	68,735	68,556	67,671	66,121	65,722	64,617	2,614	2,834	3,054	3.8	4.1	4.5
Albany	17,179	17,110	16,856	16,743	16,657	16,343	436	453	513	2.5	2.6	3.0
Goshen	6,383	6,398	6,251	6,034	6,006	5,795	349	392	456	5.5	6.1	7.3
Laramie	39,322	39,254	39,026	37,799	37,594	37,249	1,523	1,660	1,777	3.9	4.2	4.6
Niobrara	1,299	1,291	1,146	1,257	1,234	1,111	42	57	35	3.2	4.4	3.1
Platte	4,552	4,503	4,392	4,288	4,231	4,119	264	272	273	5.8	6.0	6.2
Central	48,183	47,815	47,230	45,101	44,803	44,047	3,082	3,012	3,183	6.4	6.3	6.7
Carbon	8,253	8,270	7,997	7,616	7,641	7,365	637	629	632	7.7	7.6	7.9
Converse	6,463	6,413	6,365	6,060	5,999	5,963	403	414	402	6.2	6.5	6.3
Natrona	33,467	33,132	32,868	31,425	31,163	30,719	2,042	1,969	2,149	6.1	5.9	6.5
Statewide	256,777	254,907	251,582	241,558	239,992	235,927	15,219	14,915	15,655	5.9	5.9	6.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.6	4.6	4.8
U.S.....										4.7	4.8	5.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.4	4.3	4.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/99. Run Date 03/99.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1998 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.8 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.2 to 5.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

State Unemployment Rates February News

February 1999

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

by: David Bullard, Economist

"The February estimates show a loss of 700 Mining jobs (-4.1%) over the year."

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.5
Alaska	8.1
District of Columbia	7.7
West Virginia	6.9
Oregon	6.7
Montana	6.5
New Mexico	6.2
California	6.0
Idaho	6.0
New York	6.0
Wyoming	5.9
Hawaii	5.8
Washington	5.7
Arkansas	5.5
Louisiana	5.3
Rhode Island	5.2
Pennsylvania	4.9
Kentucky	4.8
Maine	4.7
Ohio	4.7
Texas	4.7
United States	4.7
Michigan	4.6
Tennessee	4.6
Illinois	4.5
Oklahoma	4.5
Maryland	4.4
New Jersey	4.4
South Carolina	4.4
Mississippi	4.3
Alabama	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Georgia	4.1
Vermont	4.1
Florida	4.0
Arizona	3.7
Connecticut	3.7
Delaware	3.7
Kansas	3.7
Nevada	3.6
North Carolina	3.5
Utah	3.5
Indiana	3.3
Iowa	3.3
Massachusetts	3.3
New Hampshire	3.3
South Dakota	3.2
Missouri	3.1
North Dakota	3.0
Colorado	2.8
Minnesota	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
Virginia	2.8

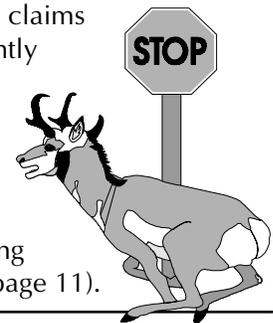
Nonagricultural employment in Wyoming continues to grow slowly (see page 15). The February estimate of 220,000 jobs shows an increase of 2,100 jobs or 1.0 percent over last year. The January estimate was revised upward by 400 jobs and showed a similar 1.0 percent increase over the year. Most of the new jobs came from the service producing sectors of the economy while the goods producing sector had mixed results. As seen in the graphic at the bottom of page 15, U.S. nonagricultural employment has been showing healthy growth of over 2.0 percent per year, while Wyoming has lagged behind the past several months.

Business services, which includes telemarketing firms, temporary employment agencies, computer services and a number of other service businesses, added 600 jobs over the year for a 10.5 percent growth rate. Social services grew at 5.7 percent over the year to add 300 new jobs. Construction, while down slightly from January, increased by 500 jobs (or 3.9%)

over February 1998.

It appears that low oil prices and economic troubles in Asia may have resulted in job losses in Wyoming's Mining industry. The February estimates show a loss of 700 Mining jobs (-4.1%) over the year. The largest losses were in oil & gas extraction which was down 400 jobs or 4.6 percent. Nonmetallic mineral mining, the industry which includes trona mining, lost 200 jobs (-6.3%).

The unemployment rate in Wyoming held steady at 5.9 percent in February while the U.S. rate fell a percentage point to 4.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted; see page 13). Wyoming civilian labor force grew 2.1 percent over the year. Continued Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims remained slightly above their 1998 levels due to the large number of claimants from the Mining industry (see page 11).



Defining Metropolitan Areas

The federal government is currently reviewing how it defines metropolitan areas. Wyoming has two metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These are the Casper Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Cheyenne MSA. The Casper MSA consists of Natrona County while the Cheyenne MSA consists of Laramie County. Recently, the Metropolitan Area Standards Review Committee published a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comment on different approaches to defining metropolitan areas. Later this summer it will again seek public comment on proposed standards for metropolitan areas. Changes in the standards could affect which cities in Wyoming are designated as MSA's after the 2000 census. The Census Bureau maintains a web site with information about the work of the committee at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/masrp.html>.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

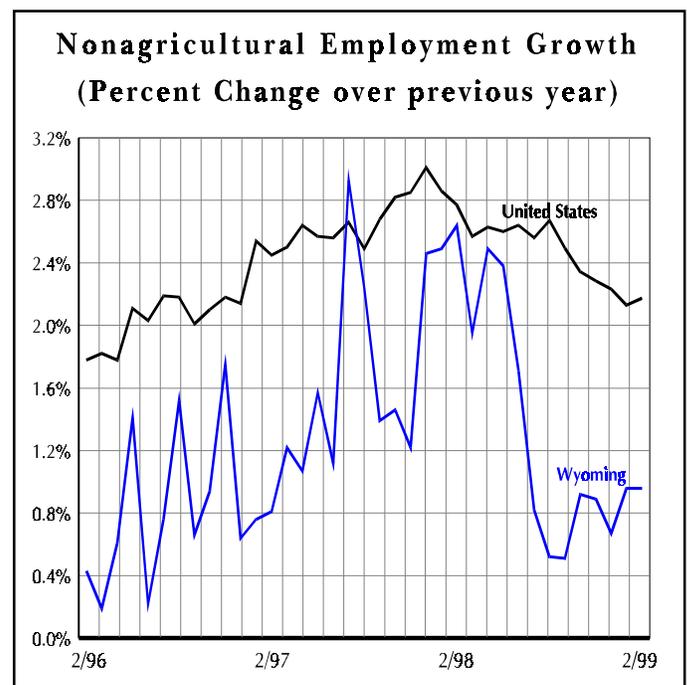
data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

"Wyoming's nonagricultural employment growth over the previous year remains slight (up 1.0% from February 1998 to 1999)."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB 99(p)	JAN 99(r)	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	220.0	220.1	217.9	0.0	1.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	40.5	41.2	40.6	-1.7	-0.2
Mining	16.4	16.6	17.1	-1.2	-4.1
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.3	8.5	8.7	-2.4	-4.6
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8
Oil & Gas Field Services	5.8	6.0	6.1	-3.3	-4.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-6.3
Construction	13.4	13.8	12.9	-2.9	3.9
General Building Contractors	3.5	3.7	3.3	-5.4	6.1
Heavy Construction	3.2	3.3	3.1	-3.0	3.2
Special Trade Construction	6.7	6.8	6.5	-1.5	3.1
Manufacturing	10.7	10.8	10.6	-0.9	0.9
Durable Goods	4.9	5.0	5.0	-2.0	-2.0
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	179.5	178.9	177.3	0.3	1.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.7	13.6	13.6	0.7	0.7
Transportation	8.6	8.6	8.5	0.0	1.2
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.4	-3.2
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.0	-9.5
Trade	50.1	50.1	49.9	0.0	0.4
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.5	7.7	2.7	0.0
Durable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	0.0
Retail Trade	42.4	42.6	42.2	-0.5	0.5
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
General Merchandise Stores	4.5	4.6	4.5	-2.2	0.0
Department Stores	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0
Food Stores	5.3	5.4	5.3	-1.9	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	7.8	7.8	7.6	0.0	2.6
Gas Stations	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.5	1.4	-6.7	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15.2	15.1	15.4	0.7	-1.3
Miscellaneous Retail	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.6	8.6	8.4	0.0	2.4
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.0	4.0	3.9	0.0	2.6
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Insurance	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Services	48.0	47.9	46.4	0.2	3.4
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.1	7.1	6.9	0.0	2.9
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Business Services	6.3	6.3	5.7	0.0	10.5
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.5	3.4	3.4	2.9	2.9
Health Services	10.2	10.2	10.1	0.0	1.0
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Social Services	5.6	5.5	5.3	1.8	5.7
Membership Organizations	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	0.0
Engineering & Management	3.5	3.6	3.3	-2.8	6.1
Government	59.1	58.7	59.0	0.7	0.2
Total Federal Government	6.5	6.6	6.6	-1.5	-1.5
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	13.6	13.5	13.5	0.7	0.7
State Education	5.4	5.4	5.4	0.0	0.0
Total Local Government	39.0	38.6	38.9	1.0	0.3
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0
Local Education	22.1	21.8	22.0	1.4	0.5

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB 99(p)	JAN 99(r)	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.0	35.0	34.5	0.0	1.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.8	3.6	-5.3	0.0
Mining & Construction	2.0	2.1	2.0	-4.8	0.0
Manufacturing	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	31.3	31.3	30.9	0.0	1.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.6	2.4	-3.8	4.2
Trade	8.2	8.2	8.2	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.4	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0	9.5
Services	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0	0.0
Total Government	11.1	11.0	11.0	0.9	0.9
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Local Government	5.4	5.3	5.3	1.9	1.9

NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB 99(p)	JAN 99(r)	FEB 98	FEB 99	FEB 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.3	30.2	29.5	0.3	2.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.3	5.2	5.2	1.9	1.9
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Mining	2.0	1.9	2.1	5.3	-4.8
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.0	25.0	24.3	0.0	2.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
Trade	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.0	20.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	8.2	8.3	8.1	-1.2	1.2
Retail Trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5.8	5.9	5.8	-1.7	0.0
Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Personal & Business Services	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5
Health Services	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.0	13.3
Government	2.6	2.7	2.7	-3.7	-3.7
Local Government	5.5	5.4	5.3	1.9	3.8
Local Education	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.5
Local Education	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6



(1) 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.

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Subject to revision. (r) Revised.

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