WYOMING LABOR FORCE

TRENDS

July 2001

Vol. 38 No. 7 Research & Planning

Workforce Development and Community College Outcomes

by: F. E. "Skip" Gillum, Vice President, Casper College; Rosanne Crossen, Director of Institutional Research, Casper College; and Sara Saulcy, Economist, Research & Planning

"This partnership...has resulted in information being developed for the first time that documents the way that Casper College interacts with Wyoming's job market."

Since February 2000, Casper College and the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning (R&P) have worked together to design a process for describing the interaction between Casper College graduates and the Wyoming labor market. A primary goal of our work is meeting the training provider requirements for performance measurement in the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).[1] Our partnership also meets the needs of Casper College: supporting educational improvement and the accreditation process. These needs meet the criteria for data sharing between Casper College and R&P as established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).[2] To meet the statutory requirements of WIA, we developed a pilot employer questionnaire to obtain information not available through other sources. Research & Planning's administrative databases contain information about employers and workers, which permits us to identify the work histories of college completers but that in other ways is incomplete. To fill these gaps, we collected additional information directly from employers by mail questionnaire. In this article we present background information on performance measurement, and discuss users

(Continued on page 2)

When Does Training Pay Off? Challenging the Assumptions of the Workforce Investment Act

by: Tom Gallagher, Manager

"...graduates did not outperform comparison group earnings until nine to eighteen months after graduation, depending upon economic conditions. Measuring program performance only during the first two quarters after graduation misses the mark."

Should community college graduates expect to find work in their chosen field within the first six months after graduation? Based on the available data (see the article which begins on page 10), the answer is: "probably not." In addition, the returns on investment in a two-year degree or certificate seem unlikely to appear until nine to eighteen

(Continued on page 9)

IN THIS ISSUE:

who benefit from this information. The research design and data collection techniques, as well as limitations of the data, are also explained. In a complementary article on page 10, summary statistics are provided.

Purpose of Performance Measurement

Little direct information about the outcomes of training programs is available. Educated guesses about the impact of education by measuring earnings before and after training are possible. We also know, for example, that on average a physician earns more than a mechanic. It is difficult to measure how training programs compare for occupations having less clear-cut outcomes. The incomplete, inequitable, or untimely provision of career information may lead to outcomes for employers and employees that are undesirable or unacceptable.

The performance measurement process as described in WIA is an attempt to provide consumers of training programs useful and objective comparisons. Students are the direct consumers of training programs through coursework and hands-on instruction. Employers are also consumers in that they apply the skills, knowledge, and experience that labor acquire through training programs to produce goods and services. The benefits of the consumption of educational services accrue to society at large as well. Neil Bruce points out that, "It is difficult to imagine how an advanced industrial economy could function if the population were illiterate and ignorant...."[3]

Society has recognized the value of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, and publicly funds education from pre-school through post-graduate studies. However, in return for expending funds for postsecondary training programs, accountability has been introduced through WIA to provide for objective measurement of education outcomes. Ideally, labor market performance measures lead to

- program offerings more consistent with positive labor market outcomes;
- an increased ability by training

Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Beth Nelson, Director.

Research & Planning Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602-2760
Tom Gallagher, Manager e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us 307-473-3801
Krista R. Shinkle, Editor e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us 307-473-3808
Technical Publication by Julie Barnish e-mail: jbarni@state.wy.us 307-473-3816
Editorial Committee: Julie Barnish, David Bullard, Craig Radden Henderson, and Krista R. Shinkle.

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: Julie Barnish, Nancy Brennan, David Bullard, Roseanne Crossen, Tom Gallagher, F. E. "Skip" Gillum, Brad Payne, Sara Saulcy, Sherry Wen.

Subscriptions, additional copies and back issues available free of charge.

ISSN 0512-4409

providers to learn about and adapt to the changing needs of both employers and students; and

- support for the accreditation process through better outcomes-based planning.

Community colleges are often viewed as homogenous training organizations. In fact they differ, sometimes greatly, in the quality and type of training they provide, and in the role they play in the labor market. As part of their mission, Wyoming's community colleges function as dynamic institutions serving the sometimes-competing demands of student aspirations, local employer needs, and the changing economic and industrial conditions of the local, state, and regional labor market. For many students, they also serve as stepping stones to the University of Wyoming (UW) or other institutions of higher education outside of Wyoming.

Students from colleges have typically been viewed as new labor supply. In reality, many are returning adult learners who already have workforce experience, (see Figure 4, Saulcy article, page 14). Furthermore, students often work while attending school, sometimes by choice, but often because their personal circumstances dictate their doing so.

New and incumbent workers use the training provider system for a variety of purposes. Some individuals may truly be new labor supply. Others represent a part of the workforce seeking skills upgrades for their existing jobs. Students may also be looking to improve their skills or acquire new skills so they can change jobs, or are acquiring education in order to move on to another institution. Still others may have been absent from the labor force for some time and are seeking skills to improve their chances of acquiring meaningful employment upon returning to the labor force.

WIA Requirements and the Role of R&P

Training providers, whose Wyoming clients receive services under WIA, are required to furnish labor market outcomes reports to the Wyoming Department of Employment (DOE). Under Section 122d of WIA, training providers must make available to the public information about

- program completion rates;
- the percentage of individuals participating in a training program who obtain unsubsidized employment, including those who obtain employment in an occupation related to their chosen training program;
- the percentage of individuals who completed the applicable program;
- the retention rate six months after hire of program participants who completed the applicable program;
- rates of licensure or certification and other credentials, or attainment of other skills;
- wages earned at initial placement in employment by all program participants; and
- wages earned by training program participants who completed the program six months after hire.

The goal for R&P was to develop a template, using one college, to demonstrate how to meet the requirements of one provider of training services. Ideally the pilot process becomes the vehicle for answering practical questions about producing the required information, and identifies the resources needed to produce consumer reports and performance measures for training providers in general. The initial information derived from the questionnaire responses gives us a baseline for how training program participants, and therefore training providers, are performing. Once we have this information, training providers and other participants in the workforce development

system can experiment with different labor market interventions (i.e., adjusting career development services, expanding internship offerings, identifying appropriate training programs). Ultimately the goal of labor market interventions is to achieve desirable outcomes in a timely manner. Such outcomes include obtaining employment in a preferred career, attaining employment with a desired compensation package, or meeting career or job goals within a certain time frame.

Beneficiaries of Performance Measurement Information

The information derived from the pilot survey of employers of Casper College graduates is potentially beneficial to a variety of groups. Among them are Casper College itself, industry, job seekers and job changers (traditional and nontraditional students), and policy makers.

Casper College benefits by utilizing the information that is developed over time to improve existing programs and to develop new program offerings, which will continue to meet the changing needs of the Wyoming labor market. The data also document the earning power of program completers who attended Casper College.

Employers who require post high school education of their workers also benefit from access to local labor supply information. For example, an employer might want to know if industries employing welders are satisfied with the skills individuals bring to their jobs once they have completed or participated in a related technical program at Casper College. Positive feedback from local peers could encourage that employer to send his/her employees to Casper College for additional training. As another example, an employer could review the wage results of the survey to determine if the compensation package he/she is offering is competitive, and if not, adjust the compensation package offered accordingly.

Job seekers and job changers benefit by having access to information that identifies the average salary for employment fields in the state, and assists in identifying the most suitable program of study. Among those who benefit are students, parents of students, career counselors, dislocated workers, and other individuals currently outside of the workforce (such as stay-at-home parents or spouses). All have access to the objective information that they need to make decisions consistent with their goals and interests.

Policy makers benefit by having documented evidence of the long-term return on investment in higher education in the State of Wyoming. The information also helps to describe how Casper College interacts with the state job market. Among the policy makers who can benefit from this project are legislators, state and local workforce investment boards, and others involved in workforce policy.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Casper College/R&P Partnership

This partnership has resulted in a win-win undertaking for all concerned. It has resulted in information being developed for the first time that documents the way that Casper College interacts with Wyoming's job market. It provides reliable information concerning the earning power of graduates and allows for conclusions to be drawn concerning the impact that the college has on the earning power of those individuals. Through subsequent employer surveys conducted by DOE, the college will have reliable data concerning the quality of their programs of study. Performance measurement also provides information to the college about areas where employers feel their employees need additional training, thus allowing the college to respond to those training needs.

The resulting data, however, are not without limitations. Wage Records data only account for those individuals working in Wyoming and are not all-inclusive. Not found

in these records are individuals working for the Federal Government, persons in the military, agricultural workers, and persons who are self-employed. Despite the limitations of the survey conducted jointly between Casper College and R&P, the information is better than the self-reported data traditionally gained by Casper College through the use of graduate surveys.

Pilot Survey Process

The pilot survey process was driven by a number of factors:

- the availability of student data;
- the timing of downloads from the Unemployment Insurance database; and
- a goal of publishing draft consumer reports by summer 2001 to provide information to Casper College prior to the next academic year, enabling administrators to make decisions based on the information.

Availability of student data, and the timing of the download of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records[4] were the primary determinants guiding the employer follow-up survey. The Wage Records database consists of all employers submitting UI tax records to the DOE, and contains detailed work behavior information on individuals working for employers who are required to pay Unemployment taxes.[5] Student data are generally available shortly after the end of a semester. In contrast, the time delay for Wage Records from the end of a reporting quarter to its availability for downloading is two quarters. For example, data for the first quarter of 2000 (2000Q1) was available at the beginning of the third quarter of 2000 (2000Q3). In order to meet the requirements of Section 122 of the WIA that we obtain information about graduates at the time of hire and six months later, student data were matched with employment data from the Wage Records database two quarters after the date of graduation. The number of employers of graduates who were included in the survey are shown on Table 1, Saulcy article page 11. Because the employer survey was a pilot, mailing questionnaires six months after graduation (as opposed to six months after hire) served as a proxy time frame for considering graduates six months after hire. By doing so we were able to consider how using administrative databases in concert with student data works in practice, even though we do not precisely conform to the six-month time frame outlined by WIA.

Graduates of the May 2000 class represent the population under consideration. The class had a total of 303 graduates. In the fourth quarter of 2000 (the time that Wage Records are available from the second quarter of 2000), employer, student, and Wage Records were matched to form the subset of the population we were evaluating (employed graduates). Student records were matched with employer Wage Records using Social Security Numbers (SSNs) as the matching criterion. The student SSNs and program enrollment data were obtained under a Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and Casper College. The data sharing agreement is consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations describing the sharing of information for purposes of improving educational programs, and support of the accreditation process.[6]

Based on the match, 145 out of 303 graduates (47.9%) were found to be working in Wyoming. Although only 47.9 percent were found to be working in Wyoming, this does not necessarily mean that the remaining 52.1 percent are unemployed. Some may be working in non-UI covered employment, such as Federal Government, railroads, or Agriculture, or are self-employed. Others may have left Wyoming and are not tracked by Wyoming's UI Wage Records. The possibility also exists that they have moved on to the University of Wyoming or another institution of higher education. Individuals attending UW or other schools may appear in Wage Records

as either full-time or part-time employees, or may not appear at all because they are attending school only and not working.

Because individuals occasionally work for multiple employers, there were a handful of instances of multiple employers for a single graduate. Similarly, many individuals may work for a single employer. Overall, 183 matches between student and employer were identified in Wage Records.

Research & Planning distributed the survey to Wyoming employers of completers of Casper College programs; employers of program non-completers were not sent a questionnaire. We collected information from firms who employed one of two different types of Casper College graduates (see Table 1, page 11):

- graduates employed in April, May, and June of 2000 (the quarter of graduation, denoted as 2000Q2) and the quarter following graduation (third quarter of 2000, denoted as 2000Q3); and
- graduates not employed at the quarter of graduation, but employed the quarter following graduation (2000Q3).

The questionnaire was mailed in late January 2001. A follow-up letter with the questionnaire was mailed in mid-February to employers who had not responded to the first questionnaire by early February. Employer questionnaires that were returned because of inadequate addressing were re-mailed to an updated address for the employer.

Depending on the employment status of the graduate at the time of graduation, an employer was sent one of two questionnaires.[7] For graduates employed only in 2000Q3 as identified in wage records, we asked employers what they paid when the graduates were first hired. For graduates employed in both 2000Q2 and 2000Q3 (as identified in wage records), we asked the employer what the highest rate of pay was in April, May, and June of 2000. The questionnaire consisted of ten questions on the following topics:

- whether or not the person was still employed as of January 12, 2001 (six months after graduation);
- wage rates at first hire, or in April, May and June of 2000, and wage rates as of January 12, 2001;
- number of hours worked per week;
- benefits or other non-monetary compensation received by the employee;
- whether or not the employer received a public subsidy for the position;
- the occupation and primary activities of the person;
- training or education required for the job;
- satisfaction with the employee's work and work habits; and
- whether the employer considered the supply of labor for the occupation to be sufficient and skilled.

January 12, 2001 was the date we requested information from because it is the UI reporting date for wages paid by employers at that point in time in the first quarter. The goal was to ease the reporting burden on employers by permitting them to draw information on employees from reports they were already required to submit.

Questionnaire Responses

Responses to questions by employers were a reflection of whether or not graduates worked for the same employers as of January 12, 2001. If an individual was still employed, we asked the employer to complete the entire

questionnaire. If the individual was not working for the same employer as of January 12, 2001, the employer was asked to complete questions regarding wage rate at first hire, or wage rate for April, May and June of 2000, employer satisfaction with the employee's work, and to comment on the available supply and skill of labor for the occupation.

A total of 181 questionnaires were mailed to employers. Two employers of graduates were not sent questionnaires because of incomplete UI Wage Records for the employers. Of the 181 questionnaires, 158 were returned. Five of the 158 survey responses were invalid.[8] The bulk of responses were tallied as reported. Three exceptions were wages, childcare (as a benefit), and employer opinion of the labor supply. Employers were given the option of reporting wages as hourly, weekly, biweekly or monthly. Since the majority of wages were reported as hourly, R&P converted all wages to hourly to aid the comparison of wages. Where employers reported wages as weekly, biweekly, or monthly, and when hours normally worked were provided, R&P converted those wages directly to hourly wages. In cases where the employer reported the wage but not the number of hours, R&P calculated hourly wages assuming a 40-hour workweek.[9] When a conversion resulted in a value inconsistent with other information provided, the value was entered as missing.

Employer opinion of labor supply was evaluated using content analysis. The analysis yielded four roups of responses:

- employees were not willing or committed to work;
- the labor supply is not sufficiently skilled;
- there is a lack of labor supply in general; and
- the labor supply is sufficient and skilled.

Data Limitations and Remedies

Although we received 158 of 181 questionnaires sent (an 87.3% return rate), our success is somewhat muted. One problem involved the wording of the benefits question. We asked if employees received (as opposed to simply being offered) any of the benefits[10] listed on the survey. Several employers stated that the employee was offered the particular benefit, but did not necessarily receive it. Consequently employer-provided benefits may appear lower than is actually the case. For example, the initial response for child care benefits was that none of the employees received them. Based on other survey programs conducted within R&P, we knew that certain employers offered subsidized child care. As confirmation, we contacted certain employers for further information. From the telephone contact with the employers, we revised the number of employees receiving child care benefits. Another error was in omitting asking employers about retirement benefits employees received. Employers had the option of writing in other benefits that employees received, but none elected to write in retirement.

Another problem involved employer non-response. Despite assurances that information would remain confidential under state and federal law, some employers declined to answer certain questions, citing company policy. This occurred most frequently for questions regarding salary and satisfaction. Non-responses also occurred because the employer would only report whether or not the company still employed the graduate, and would not answer any of the other questions as requested. Some employers responded that they did not have knowledge of the particular question being asked. Larger employers more frequently had this problem, where the individual filling out the survey may have had little direct contact with the employee. As a result, some employers were unable to provide answers in such areas as satisfaction with the employee's work or work habits.

Contributing to the problem of non-response were employers who did not answer certain questions (even though they were requested to do so), and did not report their reason. In some cases, employees were temporary, seasonal, or volunteer, and therefore do not ordinarily receive standard salaries and benefits. These yielded a small number of non-responses for certain questions.

Basic statistical problems are also part of the data set. First, we are unable to generalize to other populations (e.g., graduates of Casper College in general, graduates of other community colleges) using the data from the questionnaire regarding May 2000 graduates. The small number of responses to various questions also means that R&P is unable to do much in the way of statistical modeling (i.e., wage or occupational predictions). Because of the small number of observations, we will need more than one year's worth of information to establish any trends in the data. In addition, the small number of responses precludes us from providing more detailed occupational and industry data.

Future Plans

The most immediate plan for R&P is to revise the survey. One revision is a change in the benefits question to read, "Is the employee offered [as opposed to receiving] any of the following job benefits?" Another possible revision is to the question on the employer's opinion of labor supply. The question was open-ended to allow employers to express their opinion of the current status of labor supply and skills. While R&P made attempts to code responses using content analysis, we are somewhat uncertain about whether or not we have accurately depicted employers' sense of labor supply and skills. We expect to format the question in a way that will elicit a more precise response. We also will evaluate other wording possibilities to encourage employers to respond.

The most important development is that Northwest College (NWC) in Powell and Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne have entered into agreements with R&P to assist in their completion of the WIA requirements. Our objective is to build on the pilot that R&P and Casper College have developed.

The outgrowth of the performance measurement process is consumer reports. Consumer reports will integrate information from performance measurement and administrative databases. Through the provision of information, we hope to reduce the level of uncertainty for those in the market for educational or training providers. Consumer reports will aid in achieving the goals of labor market participants.

Summary

As our article shows, measuring the performance of graduates of training programs in the labor market yields many benefits beyond the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act. The partnership between Casper College and Research & Planning is a mutually beneficial relationship, allowing our institutions to draw on the resources with which we are familiar, and to access alternative resources where we have either less knowledge or do not have the tools, such as Wage Records. The American Association of Community Colleges advocates the use of UI wage data for performance measurement tasks.[11] While there are limitations to the data, we are encouraged by the initial results of the Casper College pilot survey. Now that we have conducted the pilot survey, we look forward to improving our methods and our results. For further information, see the related article on the summary statistics in this issue, "Implementing the Workforce Investment Act: Results from an Employer Survey Follow-up of Casper College Graduates."

(Notes, continued on page 21)

Training (continued from page 1)

months after graduation. Analysis of community college student data linked to Wage Records and data from employers who hire students indicates that Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 122(d) performance measures may not provide meaningful information about how the labor market works and how graduates use the market place.

A central problem in the expenditure of public funds on education and training activities is that, unlike the private sector, where market signals provide evidence of a service's effectiveness, outcome measures are obscured by time and a simple lack of information. The WIA remedy requires that in order for providers of educational and training services (e.g., community colleges, technical schools) to be eligible to receive WIA funds, they must make outcome measures publicly available. Section 122(d) specifies the training cost and performance information providers are to make public. Since enactment, the questions have been whether or not: (1) providers have the ability to produce this information, (2) the information is useful to consumers, and (3) consumers would receive comparable information from each provider.

Based on analysis of six years of data from a college linked to Wage Records and compared longitudinally to groups of people from the same geographic area and comparable age/gender characteristics, graduates did not outperform comparison group earnings until nine to eighteen months after graduation, depending upon economic conditions. Measuring program performance only during the first two quarters after graduation misses the mark.

WIA specifies certain data elements that program providers must provide to the public: wage rates at the time of placement in employment and six months later, whether or not the job is unsubsidized, the rate of licensure, and placement in an occupation related to the training. A provider would need to know either which employers hired students or be able to identify where students could be contacted. Community colleges lack this knowledge.

Even if colleges or other technical training providers had a means of identifying the employers of former students, generally they may not have the capacity to collect or analyze the pertinent information. Most of the items identified in Section 122(d) represent concepts from labor economics and require a certain level of survey research methods and statistical design knowledge to collect. Even if it were possible for providers to collect the information, there is no consistent or standardized framework for defining, compiling, accounting for missing data, computing and presenting the data to users. The value of consumer reports lies in their comparability.

In addition to national standards for development of performance information, we also need to engage in the analysis of how students use colleges, and identify the roles of colleges in the workforce development system. Based on this knowledge, we can develop realistic provider performance measures which more closely resemble true market signals.

Implementing the Workforce Investment Act: Results from an Employer Survey Follow-Up of Casper College Graduates

by: Sara Saulcy, Economist

"That employees do not see much in the way of wage increases within six months following graduation is consistent with earlier analysis completed by R&P staff. The research indicates that larger gains in earnings associated with education do not typically appear until approximately 18 months after graduation."

This article presents results from a survey of employers who hired Casper College graduates. The previous article by F.E. "Skip" Gillum, et al. on page 1 provides background information, along with a description of why the survey was conducted, our techniques, and how we obtained the data. In this article we discuss summary statistics, as well as potential reasons for the outcomes we obtained.

The Population and Employer Responses

Our ability to conduct the survey was dependent on two factors: the availability of student data, and the timing of the download of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records.[1] Once the data were available, student records were matched to employer records by student Social Security Number (SSN) to obtain the information required to

Frequently Used Terms

2000Q2
second quarter of 2000 (includes months of April, May and June; the quarter of graduation under consideration).

2000Q3
third quarter of 2000 (includes months of July, August and September).

2000Q4
fourth quarter of 2000 (includes months of October, November, and December; the first time that second quarter 2000 Unemployment Insurance data are available).

Incumbent worker
an individual who worked prior to attending or graduating from a postsecondary institution of higher education, or who worked while attending school; an individual that does not represent new labor supply.

n
number of item responses.

New employee
an individual not employed at the time of graduation, but who obtained employment within three months of graduation.

Out of labor force
individuals not counted as part of official labor force figures. Although these individuals are not working, they are not counted as unemployed because they are either unwilling, unable, or choose not to seek work.

Survey response
a questionnaire that was returned.

Table 1: Survey Responses for May 2000 Graduates of Casper College*

			January 12, 2001 Questionnaire Representing Six Months Following Graduation Quarter		
	Appearance in Wage Records (Employed)**			Number of Employer Responses	
Employment Status in UI Wage Records at Quarter of Graduation	One Quarter Following Graduation (2000Q3)	Two Quarters Following Graduation (2000Q4)***	Employment Status	Total Valid Survey Responses	Missing & Invalid Survey Responses
Not Employed at Graduation	90		Employed	29	13
			Not Employed	48	
Employed at Graduation	91		Employed	31	15
			Not Employed	45	

* May include multiple responses for a single graduate or employer.

** In Wyoming Wage Records.

*** First quarter in which 2000Q2 data was available for employer, student, and Wage Records for matching SSNs.

conduct the survey. Because the survey was a pilot, and because we wanted to evaluate how the survey might work in practice, we used six months after graduation as a proxy for a Workforce Investment Act (WIA)[2] requirement that employers of graduates be surveyed six months after hiring a training program graduate (see discussion in the previous article under "Pilot Survey Process" by F.E. "Skip" Gillum et al. on page 5 for a more complete discussion of data availability issues). Survey responses were generated as shown in Table 1.

Using records that were matched among the Wage Records database, employer records, and student data, R&P surveyed 113 individual employers regarding 145 graduates of Casper College who they had hired. All graduates completed their instructional programs in May 2000. Of those employers, 95 responded (84.1%) with information about

Table 2: Employer Response Rate by Industry*

Industry	Number of Questionnaires Sent	Number Received	Valid Questionnaire Responses	Response Rate for Questionnaires Received
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	4	3	3	75.0%
Mining	7	5	5	71.4
Construction	9	8	6	88.9
Manufacturing	8	7	6	87.5
TCPU**	8	6	6	75.0
Wholesale Trade	14	13	13	92.9
Retail Trade	27	19	17	70.4
FIRE*** & Services	74	67	67	90.5
Government****	30	30	30	100.0
Total	181	158	153	87.3

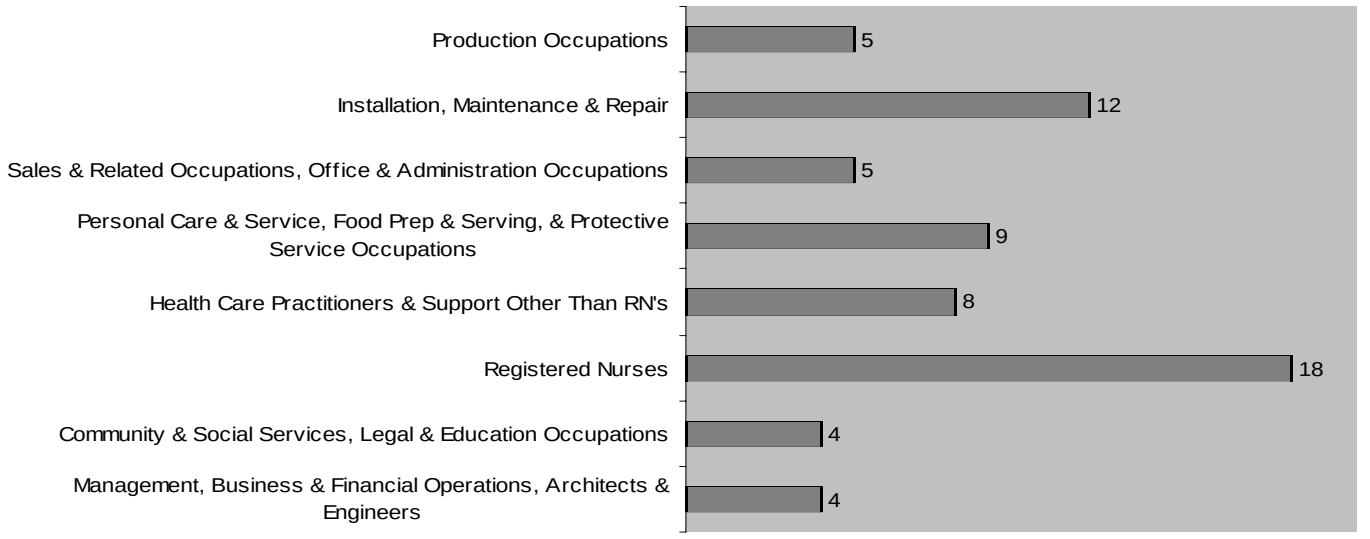
* May include multiple responses for a single employer or graduate.

** Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

*** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate.

**** Includes school districts and publicly-owned hospitals.

Figure 1: Major Occupational Groups Represented in Survey (n=65)



134 Casper College graduates (92.4%).

Because graduates sometimes work for more than one employer, in some instances we received multiple responses for a single graduate. Similarly, several graduates worked for the same employer.

Overall, 158 of the 181 questionnaire forms mailed out to employers were returned, resulting in a response rate of 87.3 percent. Of the 158 responses, five were invalid.[3] Government had the highest response rate among major industries, while Retail Trade had the lowest response rate (see Table 2, page 11). Note that the Standard Industrial Classification system has ten divisions, but to avoid disclosure of confidential information in our tables, we combined Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE) with Services.

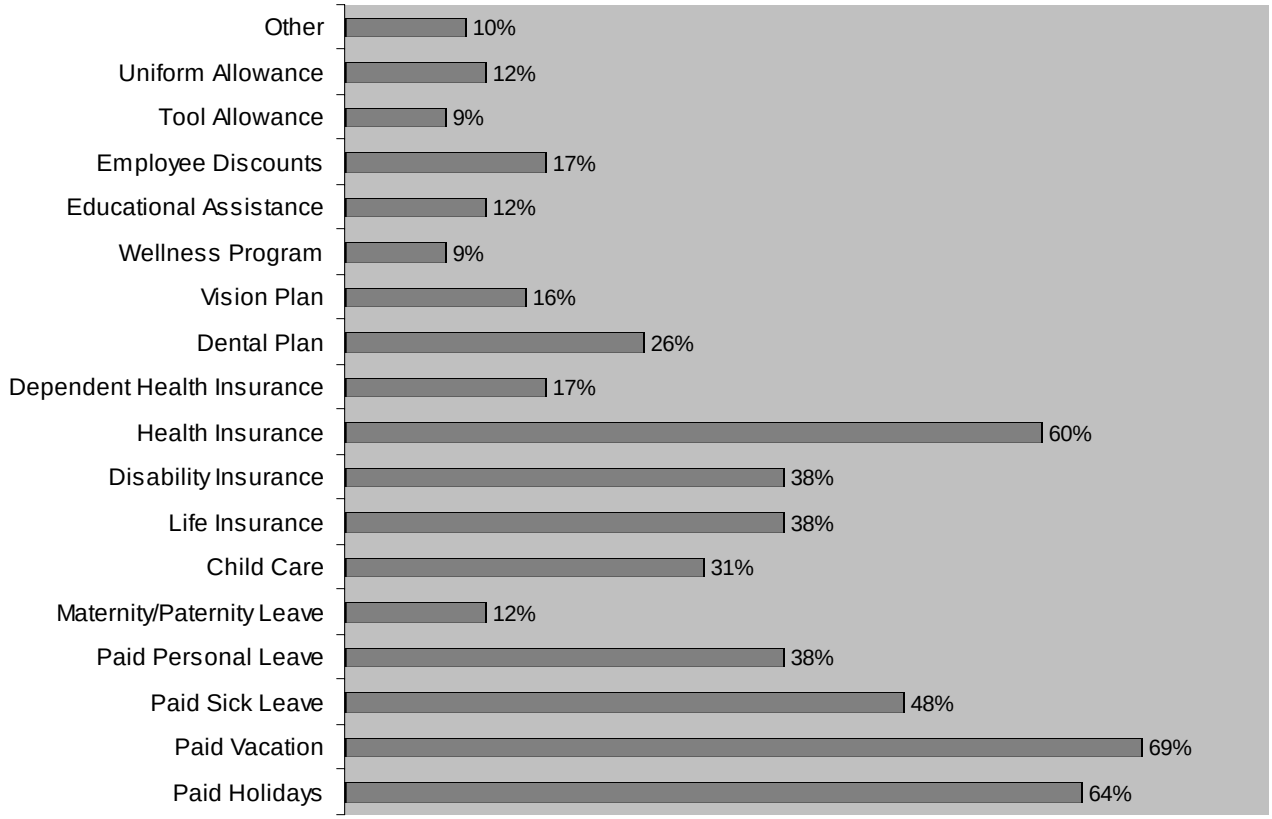
For the 153 valid responses, there were some instances when an employer did not respond to certain questions. For example, while there were 31 survey responses for graduates who were employed from the quarter of graduation through January 12, 2001, when asked to report wages, only 26 responded to this item. Where relevant, the number of responses to questions are reported in the text.

Our questionnaire centered on collecting information not available through administrative databases.[4] In cases where an employer reported that the graduate was no longer employed by the company, the employer was only required to answer five of ten questions (see article by F.E. "Skip" Gillum, et al. on page 1 about the types of questions asked on the questionnaire). Otherwise the employer was asked to complete the entire survey. The Workforce Investment Act[5] requires information regarding whether or not employers have been provided with replacement wages or tax credits to employ the graduate. None of the employers responded that the jobs were subsidized.

Industry, Occupation, and Training Program

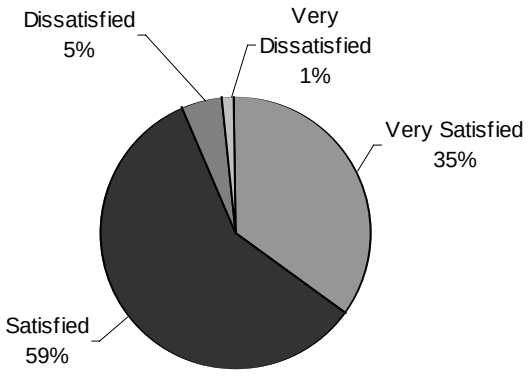
Graduates identified in UI Wage Records were in ten different industries[6] (see Table 2, page 11). Employer responses to the questions regarding occupation yielded

Figure 2: Percentage of Employees Receiving Benefits (n=58)



graduates working in 37 distinct occupations.[7] In order to avoid disclosure of confidential information, R&P aggregated Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)[8] titles into eight groups. Of the occupations reported, 18 were Registered Nurses, the largest single occupational group in our study (see Figure 1, page 12).

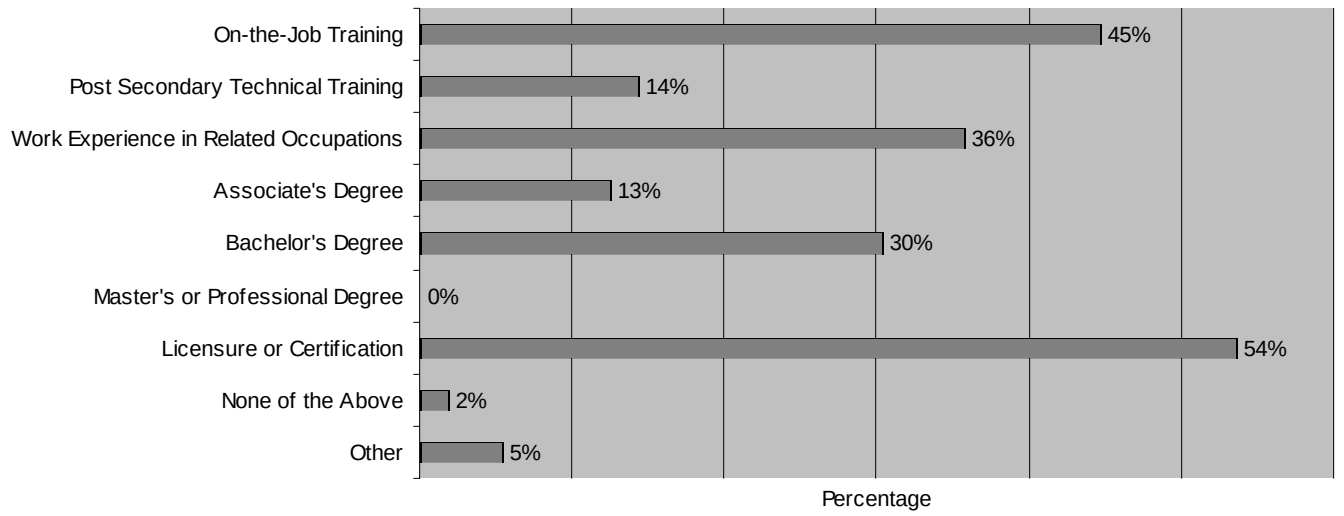
Figure 3: Employer's Satisfaction with Graduate's Work? (n=99)



Wages, and Hours Normally Worked

The questionnaire asked employers about wages and weekly hours worked by May 2000 Casper College graduates. Four groups of graduates were identified (see Table 1, page 11) for whom information about wages were requested:

Figure 4: Training Required for the Job (n=56)



- Employed in the quarter of graduation (2000Q2) and in 2000Q3, but not working for the same employer six months after graduation;

- Employed within three months after graduation (2000Q3), but not employed as of January 12, 2001 by the same employer (six months after graduation);

- Employed in 2000Q2, 2000Q3, and six months after graduation by the same employer; and

- Employed within three months after graduation and still working for the same employer six months later.

The average wage for graduates employed in the quarter of graduation[9] (2000Q2) and in 2000Q3, but not working for the same employer as of January 12, 2001 (as per employer response), was $7.78 per hour (n=38). For graduates employed in 2000Q3 but not working for the same employer as of January 12, 2001 (as per employer response), the average wage at hire was $7.57 per hour (n=38).

Employers of graduates still working for them six months after graduation were asked about wages paid to employees as of January 12, 2001. This date was chosen because it is the standard reporting date for Unemployment Insurance for wages paid in the first quarter. The goal was to ease the burden on employers by encouraging them to draw wage information from reports they are already required to submit.

For graduates employed in 2000Q2, 2000Q3, and as of January 12, 2001, the average wage for April, May and June of 2000 was $10.31 (n=29). As of January 12, 2001 (six months after graduation), the average wage for a graduate working for the same employer increased by $1.23 to $11.54 (n=31).

Wages at first hire for graduates employed in 2000Q3 (within 3 months of graduation) were $11.89 per hour (n=26). The wage increased by 36 cents per hour for graduates still working for the same employer as of January 12, 2001 to $12.25 per hour (n=26).

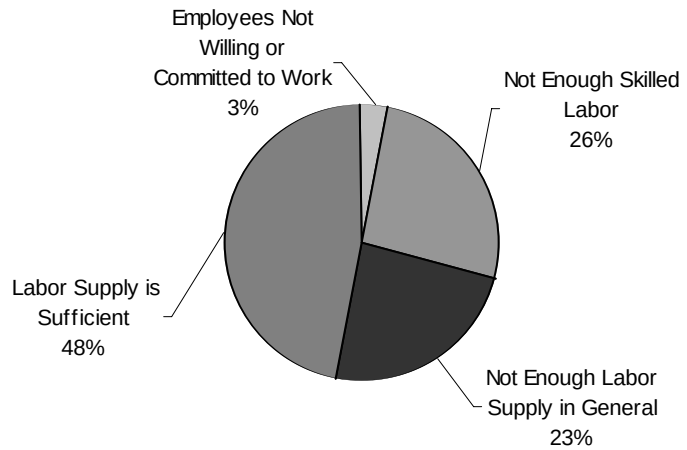
Relative to the wages of new employees, incumbent workers' wages for April, May and June, 2000 and as of January 12, 2001 were lower in comparison to new employees' wages at hire, and as of January 12, 2001. However, incumbent workers achieved in the six-month period under consideration a substantial gain in wages in comparison to that of new employees. Whereas the range of wage increases was fairly narrow for new employees ($0 to $2.50 per hour), the range of wage increases for incumbent workers was from $0 to $7.27 per hour. This suggests that incumbent workers who obtained additional skills were, in some cases, rewarded with fairly substantial increases in pay. Over the course of a year, an increase of $1.23 per hour (the average hourly wage increase for incumbent workers) would translate to an increase of $2,558.40 annually (assuming a 40-hour work week).[10] In contrast, the average 36-cent gain for new workers would yield approximately a $748.80 gain in annual earnings. The increases seen by new employees are probably attributable more to standard incremental increases provided to all employees who stay on with an employer for six months, rather than to education.

For all of the gains that many graduates see, half of all graduates working for the same employer as of January 12, 2001 did not receive any pay increase at all in the six months after graduation. Of new employees, only 32 percent received pay increases. Incumbent workers more frequently received pay increases within six months of graduation, with 66 percent receiving pay increases. The pay increase of 53 percent of incumbent workers receiving increases was less than a dollar per hour.

That graduates do not see much in the way of wage increases within six months following graduation is consistent with earlier analyses completed by R&P staff. The research indicates that larger gains in earnings associated with education do not typically appear until approximately 18 months after graduation.[11]

Employers reported that their employees worked 34.4 hours per week on average (n = 54). A similar national estimate of hours worked per week was reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics program, which showed for January

Figure 5: Employer Opinion of Labor Supply and Skill (n=61)



2001 that the average number of hours worked was 34.3.[12]

Benefits

Employers were asked about the types of benefits the employee received (see Figure 2, page 13). Employees received paid vacation most frequently (69.0%), with paid holidays being the second most frequent benefit (63.8%). Similar results for paid vacation are reported in the recently released employee benefits publication, *Employee Benefits in Wyoming: 2000*.[13]

One benefit that we neglected to inquire about was retirement. Despite the omission, we would have expected employers to fill in the gap, as employers were asked to report other benefits not listed on the questionnaire that were received by their employees. None of the employers reported that their employees received retirement benefits as another part of their compensation package.

Satisfaction

Consumer satisfaction is also a consideration of WIA. We asked employers about their satisfaction with the employee's work and work habits. The majority of employers (94%) reported that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the employee's work and work habits (n=98) (see Figure 3, page 13). Only 6.1 percent report they were less than satisfied. A more in-depth discussion of employer satisfaction will be provided in an upcoming consumer reports publication, which will be available on R&P's website.

Training Required

A wide variety of training requirements for occupations were reported. Note that multiple responses for a particular occupation are possible. For instance, many job descriptions indicate that an Associate's degree as well as work experience in a related occupation is required. Just over half of employers (n = 56) reported the occupation requires licensure or certification, the most frequently occurring response (see Figure 4, page 14). This reflects the fact that a large portion of graduates are employed as Registered Nurses, positions that require licensure or certification. On-the-job training was required second most frequently, with about 45 percent of employers reporting this requirement. None of the occupations require a Master's or professional degree.

A Bachelor's degree was reported as a level of training required for 30.4 percent of the occupations. Given that Casper College is a two-year institution, this result seems somewhat puzzling. One possible explanation is that for certain types of positions a Bachelor's degree may serve in place of experience or other training for the occupation. A second possible explanation is that graduates of Casper College may already have the Bachelor's degree required for the occupation, but chose to acquire additional or more specialized training through the college. That a large portion of occupations require a four-year degree despite Casper College being a two-year institution suggests that many students were incumbent workers, or were individuals out of the labor force with education or experience from elsewhere, rather than new labor supply.

Available Supply of Labor

We asked all employers to comment on whether or not they felt that the available supply of labor was sufficient and skilled for the occupation the graduate was working in (see Figure 5, page 15). Out of all employers, only 38 percent of survey respondents commented on the labor supply. Because so few employers responded to the question, the lack of responses suggests that labor supply and skill sufficiency may not be an issue for most employers. For those who responded to the question, R&P used content analysis to

code responses to reflect the reported comments. About 48 percent of respondents said they consider the labor supply to be sufficient and skilled. Another 26.2 percent reported there was not enough skilled labor, while another 23 percent said there was not enough labor supply in general. A small number of employers (3.3%) commented that employees were not willing or committed to work.

Summary

The results that we achieved from the survey are very encouraging. Given that Casper College has typically received only between 12 and 15 percent of responses from their employer surveys, our employer survey response rate of 87.3 percent represents a vast improvement. The increased response rate largely represents R&P's unique capacity to accurately identify employer contact information through administrative databases. Acquiring additional survey results from other colleges, including Northwest College in Powell, and Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, who have recently agreed to work with R&P, will add to the pool of data, and will improve R&P's ability to broaden the provision of data on graduates of community colleges overall, and to provide more detailed descriptions based on occupation, training programs, and more specific industry data. As more data are collected, trends in the data will be evaluated, providing an even broader understanding of the long-term impacts of educational institutions and other training providers.

[1] The UI Wage Records database consists of all employers submitting UI tax records to the Wyoming Department of Employment (DOE), and contains detailed work behavior information on individuals working for employers that are required to pay Unemployment taxes. See Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part One," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, *April 2001.*

[2] 105th Congress, "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," n.d., http://usworkforce.org/wialaw.htm (May 30, 2001).

[3] Four employers reported they did not have the person on record as an employee. Potential sources of this problem include incomplete or incorrect records on the part of the employer, lack of knowledge of the employee by the person filling out the questionnaire, unwillingness of the employer to participate in the survey, or incomplete or incorrect UI Wage Records. A fifth response was invalid because the employer reported once that the employee had worked for them, but then responded a second time that they had no record of the employee. The first questionnaire sent to the employer was received after response deadlines had passed. A second survey was sent to the employer to encourage a response. A comparison of the two surveys for the

(Notes, continued on page 22)

Attention Trends Subscribers:

Wyoming Labor Force Trends is getting a face lift. To automate our mailing, we had to shorten some of your mailing addresses. If you experience a delay in receiving the July issue of Trends or the address is incorrect, please contact Julie Barnish at (307) 473-3816, Susan Murray at (307) 473-3807, or e-mail us at DOE_R&P@state.wy.us.

Thank You!

Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 2000

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist
tables by: Nancy Brennan, Economist

"Laramie County added 822 jobs or 2.3 percent, with large gains in Retail Trade, Local Government and Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities."

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment[1] increased by 4,748 jobs or 2.1 percent during the fourth quarter of 2000 compared to fourth quarter 1999. Fourth quarter's employment increase is significantly higher than the five-year average growth of 1.7 percent (see Table 1). Total payroll increased by 7.8 percent, above the five-year average of 6.5 percent. The average weekly wage increased by $30 or 5.6 percent, above its five-year average of 4.6 percent.

Statewide Employment by Industry

Table 2 (see page 19) shows that the industries which created the largest number of jobs in fourth quarter were Services (1,300 jobs or 2.6%), Retail Trade (986 jobs or 2.1%), Mining (972 jobs or 5.8%) and Local Government (960 jobs or 2.6%).

Health services was the fastest growing sub-industry within Services. During fourth quarter it gained almost 700 jobs or 6.6 percent. Other areas within Services which showed significant growth included social services, membership organizations and engineering & management services.

Within Retail Trade, employment gains were concentrated in a relatively small number of industries. Practically all the job gains occurred in department stores and miscellaneous retail (the industry which includes catalog and mail-order houses). Small job losses occurred in food stores and apparel & accessory stores.

Oil & gas extraction was the only Mining sub-industry to show an employment increase. It gained 1,500 jobs or 17.4 percent. Employment in metal mining, coal mining and nonmetallic mineral mining all decreased when compared with fourth quarter 1999.

Employment in Local Government increased by 960 jobs or 2.6 percent. Most of the increase occurred in educational services and hospitals.

Construction was the only industry which had a significant decline in employment in fourth quarter 2000 (-256 jobs or -1.4%). It appears that colder weather in 2000 may be to blame for the job losses as employment in heavy construction dropped off sharply during

(text continued on page 20)

Table 1: Percent Change in Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter, 1996-2000

	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
96Q4	2.8	-1.2	5.2	5.2	4.0	8.4
97Q4	-0.1	-3.3	6.7	5.8	4.9	9.4
98Q4	1.2	-3.6	6.2	6.5	4.9	9.9
99Q4	2.6	-2.4	6.5	5.4	3.9	8.1
00Q4	2.1	-2.7	7.8	9.4	5.6	12.4
5 Year Average for Q4	**1.7**	**-2.6**	**6.5**	**6.5**	**4.6**	**9.6**

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Fourth Quarter 2000 by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
	1999	2000	No.	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent	1999	2000	Amount	Percent
Total, All Industries	**226,580**	**231,328**	**4,748**	**2.1**	**$1,565,819,913**	**$1,687,540,562**	**$121,720,649**	**7.8**	**$532**	**$561**	**$30**	**5.6**
Private	**171,843**	**175,352**	**3,509**	**2.0**	**$1,187,496,946**	**$1,297,030,289**	**$109,533,343**	**9.2**	**$532**	**$569**	**$37**	**7.0**
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	3,320	3,348	28	0.8	17,480,842	20,276,086	2,795,244	16.0	405	466	61	15.0
Mining	16,699	17,671	972	5.8	214,410,264	307,361,372	92,951,108	43.4	988	1,338	350	35.5
Construction	17,921	17,665	-256	-1.4	145,538,884	140,806,643	-4,732,241	-3.3	625	613	-12	-1.9
Manufacturing	11,286	11,675	389	3.4	96,359,332	101,985,992	5,626,660	5.8	657	672	15	2.3
TCPU*	11,485	11,452	-33	-0.3	123,328,445	106,423,919	-16,904,526	-13.7	826	715	-111	-13.5
Wholesale Trade	7,632	7,761	128	1.7	65,435,175	67,674,381	2,239,206	3.4	659	671	11	1.7
Retail Trade	45,958	46,944	986	2.1	171,740,951	177,570,003	5,829,052	3.4	287	291	4	1.2
FIRE**	8,032	8,026	-6	-0.1	65,528,443	67,347,702	1,819,259	2.8	628	645	18	2.9
Services	49,509	50,809	1,300	2.6	287,674,610	307,584,191	19,909,581	6.9	447	466	19	4.2
Total Government	**54,736**	**55,976**	**1,240**	**2.3**	**$378,322,967**	**$390,510,273**	**$12,187,306**	**3.2**	**$532**	**$537**	**$5**	**0.9**
Federal Government	7,009	7,019	10	0.1	72,208,816	72,643,370	434,554	0.6	792	796	4	0.5
State Government	11,460	11,731	270	2.4	85,649,717	92,132,723	6,483,006	7.6	575	604	29	5.1
Local Government	36,267	37,227	960	2.6	220,464,434	225,734,180	5,269,746	2.4	468	466	-1	-0.2

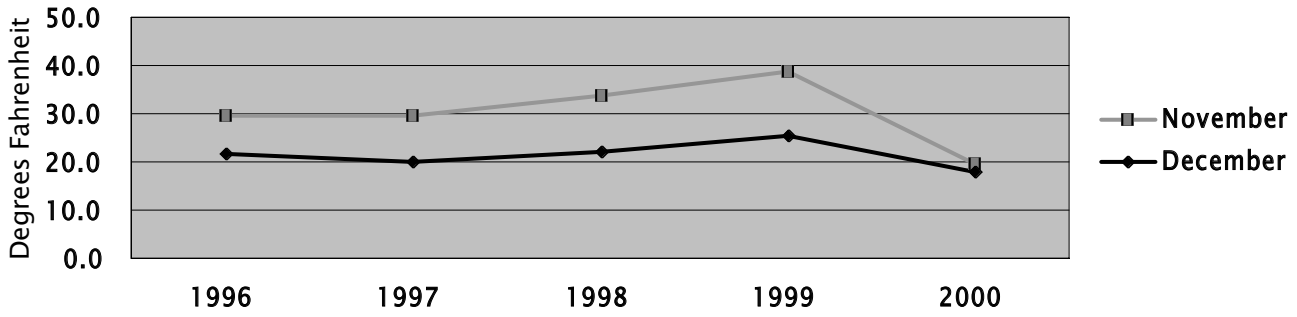
* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities
** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Fourth Quarter 2000 by Region

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
	1999	2000	Number	Percent	1999	2000	Number	Percent	1999	2000	Number	Percent
Total	**226,580**	**231,328**	**4,748**	**2.1**	**$1,565,819,913**	**$1,687,540,562**	**$121,720,649**	**7.8**	**$532**	**$561**	**$30**	**5.6**
Northwest Region	**35,026**	**35,127**	**101**	**0.3**	**$214,364,197**	**$219,593,862**	**$5,229,665**	**2.4**	**$471**	**$481**	**$10**	**2.1**
Big Horn	4,060	4,098	38	0.9	28,273,819	29,380,617	1,106,798	3.9	536	552	16	2.9
Fremont	13,872	14,014	142	1.0	83,579,912	83,002,559	-577,353	-0.7	463	456	-8	-1.7
Hot Springs	1,953	1,975	21	1.1	10,367,347	11,012,572	645,225	6.2	408	429	21	5.1
Park	11,293	11,354	60	0.5	68,327,269	71,937,975	3,610,706	5.3	465	487	22	4.7
Washakie	3,848	3,687	-161	-4.2	23,815,850	24,260,139	444,289	1.9	476	506	30	6.3
Northeast Region	**35,341**	**36,241**	**900**	**2.5**	**$252,098,967**	**$267,330,342**	**$15,231,375**	**6.0**	**$549**	**$567**	**$19**	**3.4**
Campbell	17,986	18,723	736	4.1	152,056,476	161,376,355	9,319,879	6.1	650	663	13	2.0
Crook	1,859	1,888	29	1.5	10,736,088	11,208,898	472,810	4.4	444	457	13	2.8
Johnson	2,640	2,532	-107	-4.1	13,668,999	13,208,587	-460,412	-3.4	398	401	3	0.7
Sheridan	10,637	10,929	292	2.7	62,731,641	67,204,644	4,473,003	7.1	454	473	19	4.3
Weston	2,218	2,169	-50	-2.2	12,905,763	14,331,858	1,426,095	11.1	448	508	61	13.6
Southwest Region	**49,102**	**49,467**	**365**	**0.7**	**$371,243,191**	**$377,517,813**	**$6,274,622**	**1.7**	**$582**	**$587**	**$5**	**0.9**
Lincoln	5,266	5,048	-218	-4.1	34,261,295	33,343,381	-917,914	-2.7	500	508	8	1.5
Sublette	2,110	2,153	43	2.0	12,874,989	14,816,254	1,941,265	15.1	469	529	60	12.8
Sweetwater	19,315	19,046	-269	-1.4	167,689,874	164,849,604	-2,840,270	-1.7	668	666	-2	-0.3
Teton	14,457	15,085	629	4.3	104,354,108	113,537,287	9,183,179	8.8	555	579	24	4.3
Uinta	7,955	8,135	180	2.3	52,062,925	50,971,287	-1,091,638	-2.1	503	482	-21	-4.3
Southeast Region	**58,607**	**59,519**	**912**	**1.6**	**$373,038,410**	**$380,954,643**	**$7,916,233**	**2.1**	**$490**	**$492**	**$3**	**0.6**
Albany	14,215	14,450	235	1.7	82,638,452	86,738,008	4,099,556	5.0	447	462	15	3.3
Goshen	4,204	4,341	137	3.3	21,717,204	23,060,843	1,343,639	6.2	397	409	11	2.8
Laramie	36,024	36,846	822	2.3	244,195,989	248,533,769	4,337,780	1.8	521	519	-3	-0.5
Niobrara	815	761	-54	-6.6	3,739,697	3,658,539	-81,158	-2.2	353	370	17	4.8
Platte	3,349	3,121	-228	-6.8	20,747,068	18,963,484	-1,783,584	-8.6	477	467	-9	-1.9
Central Region	**41,662**	**42,468**	**806**	**1.9**	**$287,689,240**	**$371,252,776**	**$83,563,536**	**29.0**	**$531**	**$672**	**$141**	**26.6**
Carbon	6,357	6,218	-139	-2.2	38,310,040	38,783,619	473,579	1.2	464	480	16	3.5
Converse	4,353	4,389	36	0.8	29,817,750	29,174,601	-643,149	-2.2	527	511	-16	-3.0
Natrona	30,952	31,862	909	2.9	219,561,450	303,294,556	83,733,106	38.1	546	732	187	34.2
Nonclassified*	**6,842**	**8,506**	**1,664**	**24.3**	**$67,385,908**	**$70,891,126**	**$3,505,218**	**5.2**	**$758**	**$641**	**-$116**	**-15.4**

* The employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

Figure: Wyoming Mean Temperature, November and December 1996-2000



November and December in comparison to 1999. The Figure shows that average temperature in November fell from 38.8 degrees in 1999 to 19.4 degrees in 2000. December's temperature also fell from 1999 to 2000, but not as dramatically.

Employment by County

Table 3 (see page 19) shows that the employment situation across Wyoming counties was mixed. Eight counties lost employment when compared with fourth quarter 1999, while 15 counties gained jobs.

Natrona County had the honor of creating the largest number of jobs during fourth quarter. It gained 909 jobs or 2.9 percent. Large employment increases were seen in Local Government, Mining, Manufacturing and Retail Trade. Employment fell in Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

Laramie County added 822 jobs or 2.3 percent, with large gains in Retail Trade, Local Government and Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities. Job losses occurred in Services, Construction and Finance, Insurance ,& Real Estate.

Employment increased by 736 jobs or 4.1 percent in Campbell County as a result of strong growth in Mining, Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade. Within Mining, small job losses in coal mining (approximately 100 jobs) were offset by large gains in oil & gas extraction (400 jobs).

Teton County was the fastest growing county in percentage terms, adding 629 jobs or 4.3 percent. Growth industries included Local Government and Construction.

Sweetwater County lost 269 jobs or 1.4 percent. Job losses were seen in Construction, Local Government and Mining.

Platte County had 228 fewer jobs in fourth quarter 2000 than in 1999, a decline of 6.8 percent. Most of these job losses were associated with the completion of a construction project.

For more detailed tables on fourth quarter covered employment and wages, visit our Internet site at:

http://lmi.state.wy.us/00Q4_202/toc.htm.

[1] Approximately 85-90 percent of all workers in Wyoming are covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Some exceptions include the self-employed and many agricultural workers.

[1]105th Congress, "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," n.d., http://usworkforce.org/wialaw.htm (May 30, 2001).

[2]"Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)," n.d., http://www.lrp.com/ed/freelib/free_regs/bc3499.htm (May 30, 2001).

[3]Neil Bruce, ***Public Finance and the American Economy***, 1998, p. 354.

[4]The UI Wage Records database consists of all employers submitting UI tax records to the Wyoming Department of Employment (DOE), and contains detailed work behavior information on individuals working for employers that are required to pay Unemployment taxes. See Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part One," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, *April 2001*.

[5]Tony Glover, "Enhancing the Quality of Wage Records for Analysis Through Imputation: Part One," ***Wyoming Labor Force Trends***, *April 2001*.

[6]See Endnote 2.

[7]The survey instruments are available on Research & Planning's website at http://lmi.state.wy.us/.

[8]Four employers reported they did not have the person on record as an employee. Potential sources of this problem include incomplete or incorrect records on the part of the employer, lack of knowledge of the employee by the person filling out the questionnaire, unwillingness of the employer to participate in the survey, or incomplete or incorrect UI Wage Records. A fifth response was invalid because the employer reported once that the employee had worked for them, but then responded a second time that they had no record of the employee. The first questionnaire sent to the employer was received after response deadlines had passed. A second survey was sent to the employer to encourage a response. A comparison of the two surveys for the same employer and graduate yielded the conflicting responses. Consequently responses for the employer for the particular graduate were entered as missing.

[9]The Alien Labor Certification program uses a 40-hour work week to convert wages reported in any units other than hourly. See General Administration Letter No. 4-95, n.d., http://www.imminfo.com/Resources/DOL/Memos/GAL%204-95.html (May 30, 2001) for further discussion.

.

[10]The benefits question was asked in a manner similar to the collection of information for our employee benefits survey (see Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Employee Benefits in Wyoming: 2000***, June 2001).

[11]Robert T. Mundhenk, "Institutional Effectiveness and Unemployment Insurance Data," Fall 2000, ***American Association of Community Colleges White Paper,*** http://www.aacc.nche.edu (May 30, 2001).

State Unemployment Rates
May 2001
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Alaska	5.6
New Mexico	5.6
Washington	5.3
Mississippi	5.2
Oregon	5.1
West Virginia	5.1
Illinois	5.0
North Carolina	5.0
Louisiana	4.9
Idaho	4.6
Michigan	4.6
California	4.5
District of Columbia	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.5
Arkansas	4.4
South Carolina	4.4
Alabama	4.3
Hawaii	4.3
Montana	4.3
Arizona	4.2
Texas	4.2
Kentucky	4.1
Nevada	4.1
Rhode Island	4.1
United States	**4.1**
New Jersey	4.0
New York	4.0
Wisconsin	3.9
Florida	3.8
Utah	3.8
Maryland	3.6
Missouri	3.6
Ohio	3.6
Georgia	3.5
Kansas	3.5
Tennessee	3.5
Minnesota	3.4
Maine	3.3
Wyoming	**3.3**
Massachusetts	3.2
Delaware	3.1
Indiana	3.0
Oklahoma	2.9
Virginia	2.9
Nebraska	2.7
New Hampshire	2.7
Vermont	2.7
Colorado	2.5
Connecticut	2.4
Iowa	2.3
South Dakota	2.2
North Dakota	2.0

State Unemployment Rates
May 2001
(Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.7
Alaska	5.8
Washington	5.8
New Mexico	5.6
Illinois	5.4
Louisiana	5.4
Alabama	5.3
Hawaii	5.2
Oregon	5.2
West Virginia	5.1
Idaho	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Nevada	4.9
North Carolina	4.9
California	4.8
Montana	4.7
District of Columbia	4.6
Michigan	4.6
Arkansas	4.5
United States	**4.5**
Rhode Island	4.4
Arizona	4.3
Kentucky	4.3
New York	4.3
Pennsylvania	4.3
South Carolina	4.3
Tennessee	4.3
Texas	4.3
New Jersey	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Missouri	4.0
Florida	3.9
Georgia	3.9
Minnesota	3.9
Ohio	3.9
Utah	3.9
Maryland	3.6
Kansas	3.5
Wyoming	**3.6**
Delaware	3.3
Massachusetts	3.2
Maine	3.1
Vermont	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
Indiana	2.9
New Hampshire	2.9
Oklahoma	2.9
Colorado	2.7
Iowa	2.7
Virginia	2.7
North Dakota	2.6
South Dakota	2.5
Connecticut	2.2

(Notes, continued from page 17)

same employer and graduate yielded the conflicting responses. Consequently responses for the employer for the particular graduate were entered as missing.

[4] Administrative databases include Unemployment Insurance (Wage Records, Claimants, Covered Employment & Wages), driver's license data, Employment Services data, higher education databases, etc.

[5] See Endnote 2.

[6] Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) and Services are combined to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

[7] Employers were requested to report the occupation title and primary activities of the employee only if the person was still employed by them as of January 12, 2001.

[8] U.S. Office of Management and Budget, ***Standard Occupational Classification Manual***, 2000.

[9] Graduates are employed as identified in Unemployment Insurance Wage Records.

[10] The Alien Labor Certification program assumes a 40-hour work week to convert hourly wages to annual wages. See General Administration Letter No. 4-95, n.d., http://www.imminfo.com/Resources/DOL/Memos/GAL%204-95.html (May 30, 2001) for further discussion.

[11] Wyoming Dept. of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Consumer Report Draft For Casper College***, Sept. 19, 2000, p. 11.

[12] Bureau of Labor Statistics, "B-8. Average Weekly Hours of Production or Nonsupervisory Workers on Private Nonfarm Payroll by Major Industry and Manufacturing Group, Seasonally Adjusted," ***Establishment Data Hours Seasonally Adjusted***, ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/ee/ceseeb8.txt (May 21, 2001).

[13] Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, ***Employee Benefits in Wyoming: 2000***, June 2001.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment[1]

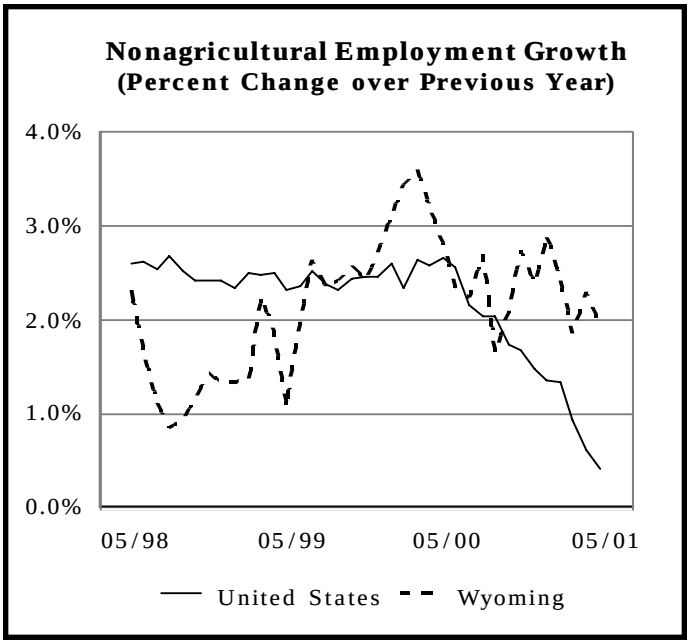
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Oil and gas extraction continues to experience statewide monthly employment gains, increasing by 11.0 percent in May compared to April 2001."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
				APR 01	MAY 00
	MAY01(p)	APR01(r)	MAY 00	MAY 01	MAY 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	246.1	239.4	241.4	2.8	1.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	48.9	47.2	46.3	3.6	5.6
Mining	18.7	18.4	16.6	1.6	12.7
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.8	0.0	-6.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	11.0	10.9	8.6	0.9	27.9
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.0	7.7
Oil & Gas Field Services	8.2	8.1	6.0	1.2	36.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	19.2	17.7	18.6	8.5	3.2
General Building Contractors	4.2	4.1	4.2	2.4	0.0
Heavy Construction	6.4	5.4	6.0	18.5	6.7
Special Trade Construction	8.6	8.2	8.4	4.9	2.4
Manufacturing	11.0	11.1	11.1	-0.9	-0.9
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	5.9	6.0	6.0	-1.7	-1.7
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	197.2	192.2	195.1	2.6	1.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.2	14.1	14.4	0.7	-1.4
Transportation	9.4	9.3	9.3	1.1	1.1
Railroad Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	-9.1
Telephone Communications	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.0	-18.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Trade	56.0	54.3	54.4	3.1	2.9
Wholesale Trade	8.1	8.0	7.7	1.3	5.2
Durable Goods	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.3	11.4
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.3	3.3	-3.0	-3.0
Retail Trade	47.9	46.3	46.7	3.5	2.6
Building Materials & Garden Suppl	2.3	2.2	2.2	4.5	4.5
General Merchandise Stores	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.7	9.8
Department Stores	4.6	4.5	3.8	2.2	21.1
Food Stores	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.7	3.7
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.4	8.2	8.3	2.4	1.2
Gas Stations	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.3	1.2	1.2	8.3	8.3
Furniture & Home Furnishing Store	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	17.2	16.8	17.4	2.4	-1.1
Miscellaneous Retail	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.4	7.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.2	8.1	8.1	1.2	1.2
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	55.9	53.9	54.6	3.7	2.4
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	9.0	7.5	9.0	20.0	0.0
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Business Services	8.3	8.1	8.1	2.5	2.5
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.4	3.6	3.3	-5.6	3.0
Health Services	11.3	11.3	10.8	0.0	4.6
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.7	2.6	2.5	3.8	8.0
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.0	-7.7
Social Services	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6
Membership Organizations	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8
Engineering & Management	4.1	4.0	3.9	2.5	5.1
Government	62.9	61.8	63.6	1.8	-1.1
Total Federal Government	7.2	6.8	8.2	5.9	-12.2
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	14.1	13.9	13.9	1.4	1.4
State Education	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	-1.8
Total Local Government	41.6	41.1	41.5	1.2	0.2
Local Hospitals	5.4	5.4	5.2	0.0	3.8
Local Education	23.5	23.3	23.7	0.9	-0.8

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
				APR 01	MAY 00
	MAY01(p)	APR01(r)	MAY 00	MAY 01	MAY 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.3	37.8	38.1	1.3	0.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0
Mining & Construction	2.5	2.3	2.4	8.7	4.2
Manufacturing	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	34.2	33.8	34.0	1.2	0.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.0	-3.4
Trade	9.1	8.9	8.7	2.2	4.6
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	8.3	8.1	7.9	2.5	5.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	8.5	8.4	8.5	1.2	0.0
Total Government	12.1	12.0	12.2	0.8	-0.8
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	3.0	0.0	-16.7
State Government	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Local Government	6.1	6.0	5.8	1.7	5.2

NATRONA COUNTY*					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.2	32.8	32.4	1.2	2.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.7	5.6	5.3	1.8	7.5
Mining	2.2	2.1	1.8	4.8	22.2
Construction	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Manufacturing	1.5	1.6	1.5	-6.3	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	27.5	27.2	27.1	1.1	1.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
Communications & Public Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Trade	9.1	9.0	8.8	1.1	3.4
Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Retail Trade	6.6	6.5	6.4	1.5	3.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Services	9.9	9.7	9.5	2.1	4.2
Personal & Business Services	2.2	2.1	2.0	4.8	10.0
Health Services	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	6.7
Government	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	-3.4
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	4.3	4.3	4.4	0.0	-2.3
Local Education	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2



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.

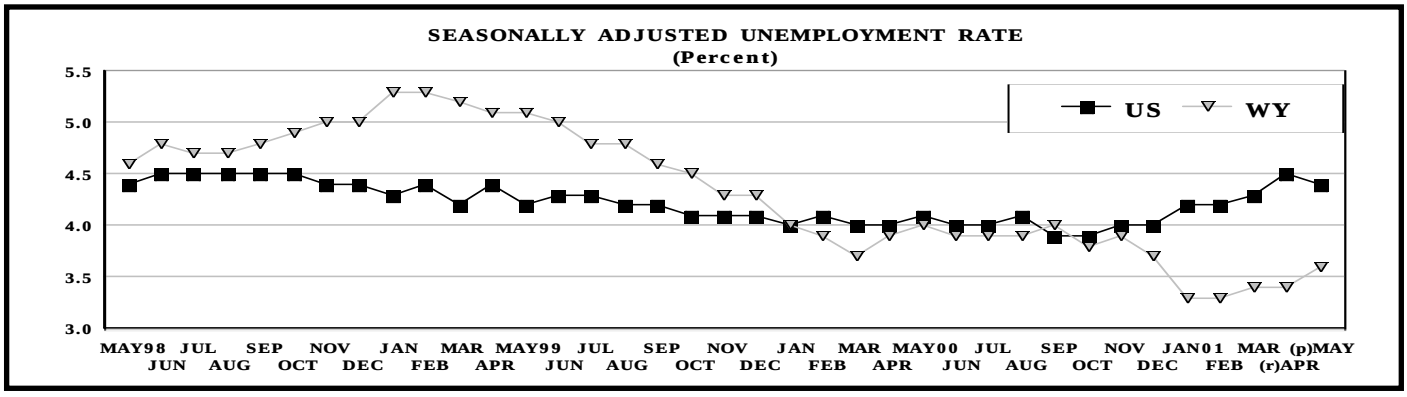
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistical Technician

"When compared to May 2000, the number of Wyoming building permits increased 98.6 percent."

	May 2001 (p)	April 2001 (r)	May 2000 (b)	Percentage Change Month	Percentage Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	265,868	265,598	265,919	0.1	0.0
Unemployed	8,710	9,241	9,635	-5.7	-9.6
Employed	257,158	256,357	256,284	0.3	0.3
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.3/3.6	3.5/3.4	3.6/4.0	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.1/4.4	4.2/4.5	3.9/4.1	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,482,000	7,710,000	7,280,000	-3.0	2.8
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.4%	5.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	325,000	346,000	282,000	-6.1	15.2
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,270,000	3,108,000	3,140,000	5.2	4.1
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$872.73	$933.73	$852.81	-6.5	2.3
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	44.4	43.4	-1.1	1.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$771.76	$766.47	$738.74	0.7	4.5
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	43.5	42.9	1.1	2.6
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$631.97	$624.69	$620.69	1.2	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	38.7	37.7	39.1	2.7	-1.0
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$600.33	$588.53	$593.22	2.0	1.2
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	39.9	41.6	2.0	-2.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	10,447	11,745	10,772	-11.1	-3.0
Benefits Paid	$2,140,362	$2,408,277	$2,077,538	-11.1	3.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$204.88	$205.05	$192.86	-0.1	6.2
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	219,633	211,803	216,384	3.7	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.1%	1.5%	1.2%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	177.7	176.9	171.5	0.5	3.6
Food & Beverages	172.9	172.4	167.8	0.3	3.0
Housing	175.9	175.4	168.1	0.3	4.6
Apparel	129.8	131.9	132.2	-1.6	-1.8
Transportation	159.2	156.1	153.1	2.0	4.0
Medical Care	271.4	270.8	259.4	0.2	4.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	105.0	105.0	103.1	0.0	1.8
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	104.0	104.1	101.8	-0.1	2.2
Other Goods & Services	280.2	270.2	281.3	3.7	-0.4
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	136.6	136.3	131.6	0.2	3.8
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	286	163	144	75.5	98.6
Valuation	$35,864,000	$25,661,000	$41,325,000	39.8	-13.2

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Statistician

"The Unemployment rate for Wyoming's Central Region decreased in May 2000 from 4.1 percent to 3.4 percent in May 2001."

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
REGION County	May 2001 (p)	Apr 2001 (r)	May 2000 (b)	May 2001 (p)	Apr 2001 (r)	May 2000 (b)	May 2001 (p)	Apr 2001 (r)	May 2000 (b)	May 2001 (p)	Apr 2001 (r)	May 2000 (b)
NORTHWEST	**46,630**	**45,911**	**47,281**	**44,460**	**43,628**	**44,977**	**2,170**	**2,283**	**2,304**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**4.9**
Big Horn	5,934	5,957	6,052	5,700	5,699	5,728	234	258	324	3.9	4.3	5.4
Fremont	18,069	18,244	18,312	17,047	17,107	17,262	1,022	1,137	1,050	5.7	6.2	5.7
Hot Springs	2,484	2,497	2,495	2,392	2,390	2,411	92	107	84	3.7	4.3	3.4
Park	15,522	14,549	15,568	14,911	13,984	15,021	611	565	547	3.9	3.9	3.5
Washakie	4,621	4,664	4,854	4,410	4,448	4,555	211	216	299	4.6	4.6	6.2
NORTHEAST	**45,097**	**45,184**	**45,268**	**43,874**	**43,787**	**43,710**	**1,223**	**1,397**	**1,558**	**2.7**	**3.1**	**3.4**
Campbell	20,375	20,477	20,331	19,879	19,962	19,684	496	515	647	2.4	2.5	3.2
Crook	3,218	3,174	3,301	3,129	3,043	3,175	89	131	126	2.8	4.1	3.8
Johnson	4,091	4,000	4,085	4,002	3,893	3,972	89	107	113	2.2	2.7	2.8
Sheridan	14,093	14,181	14,093	13,648	13,674	13,561	445	507	532	3.2	3.6	3.8
Weston	3,320	3,352	3,458	3,216	3,215	3,318	104	137	140	3.1	4.1	4.0
SOUTHWEST	**51,810**	**50,865**	**51,771**	**49,993**	**48,933**	**49,698**	**1,817**	**1,932**	**2,073**	**3.5**	**3.8**	**4.0**
Lincoln	6,538	6,400	6,657	6,274	6,095	6,351	264	305	306	4.0	4.8	4.6
Sublette	3,199	3,033	3,209	3,137	2,981	3,134	62	52	75	1.9	1.7	2.3
Sweetwater	19,738	19,726	19,862	18,984	18,981	19,007	754	745	855	3.8	3.8	4.3
Teton	12,004	11,515	11,525	11,702	11,125	11,255	302	390	270	2.5	3.4	2.3
Uinta	10,331	10,191	10,518	9,896	9,751	9,951	435	440	567	4.2	4.3	5.4
SOUTHEAST	**72,924**	**73,834**	**72,241**	**71,130**	**71,961**	**70,590**	**1,794**	**1,873**	**1,651**	**2.5**	**2.5**	**2.3**
Albany	18,916	19,304	18,377	18,626	18,993	18,107	290	311	270	1.5	1.6	1.5
Goshen	6,590	6,759	6,663	6,396	6,535	6,501	194	224	162	2.9	3.3	2.4
Laramie	41,176	41,631	41,097	40,009	40,474	40,036	1,167	1,157	1,061	2.8	2.8	2.6
Niobrara	1,312	1,312	1,314	1,286	1,276	1,287	26	36	27	2.0	2.7	2.1
Platte	4,930	4,828	4,790	4,813	4,683	4,659	117	145	131	2.4	3.0	2.7
CENTRAL	**49,406**	**49,803**	**49,357**	**47,702**	**48,049**	**47,309**	**1,704**	**1,754**	**2,048**	**3.4**	**3.5**	**4.1**
Carbon	8,125	8,022	8,412	7,842	7,741	8,073	283	281	339	3.5	3.5	4.0
Converse	6,832	6,876	6,867	6,610	6,614	6,594	222	262	273	3.2	3.8	4.0
Natrona	34,449	34,905	34,078	33,250	33,694	32,642	1,199	1,211	1,436	3.5	3.5	4.2
STATEWIDE	**265,868**	**265,598**	**265,919**	**257,158**	**256,357**	**256,284**	**8,710**	**9,241**	**9,635**	**3.3**	**3.5**	**3.6**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.6	3.4	4.0
U.S.										4.1	4.2	3.9
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										4.4	4.5	4.1

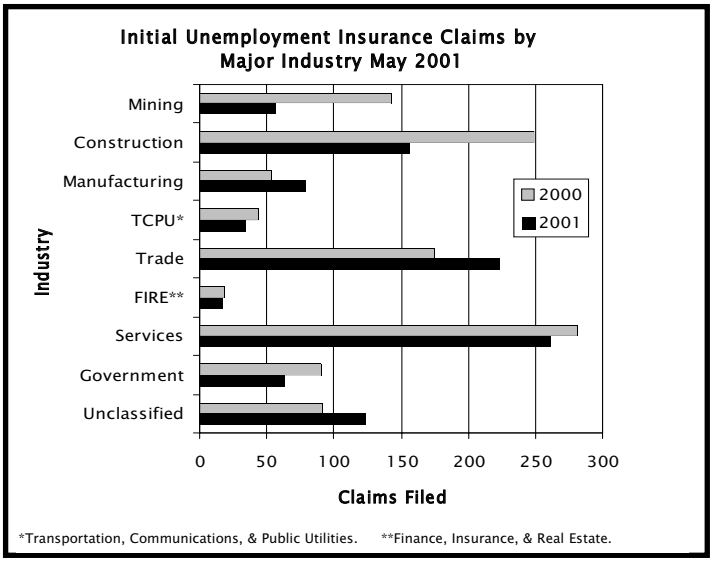
Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/01. Run Date 06/01.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2000 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.
The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.4 to 4.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

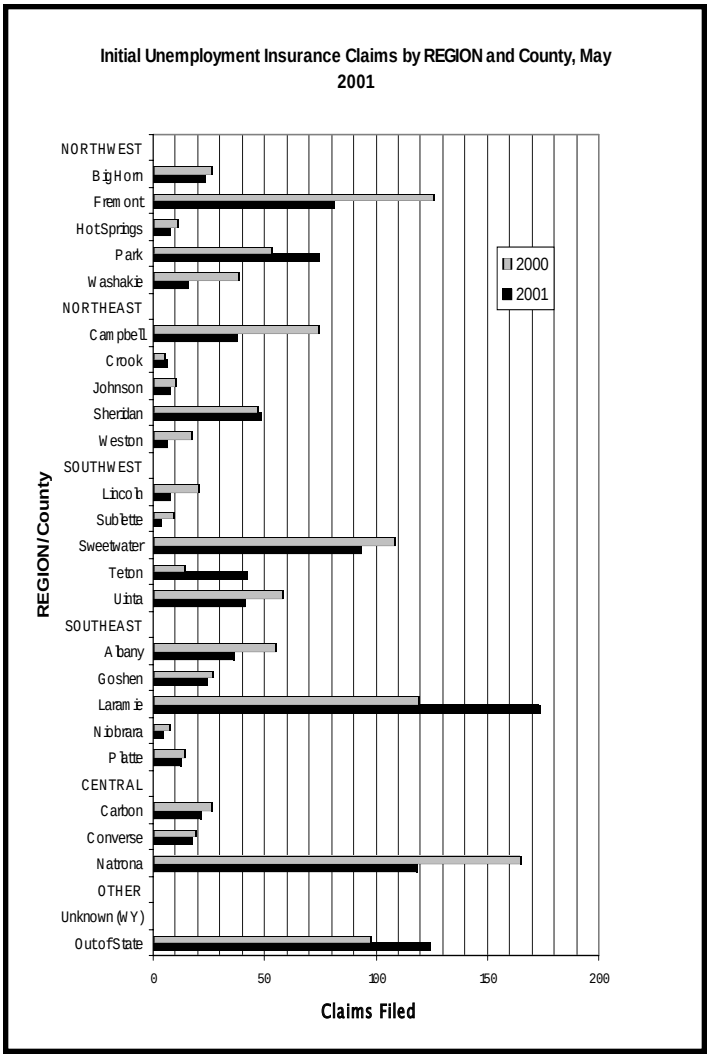
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

"Most industries in the State saw declines in initial claims in May 2001 compared to May 2000"



*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities. **Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.



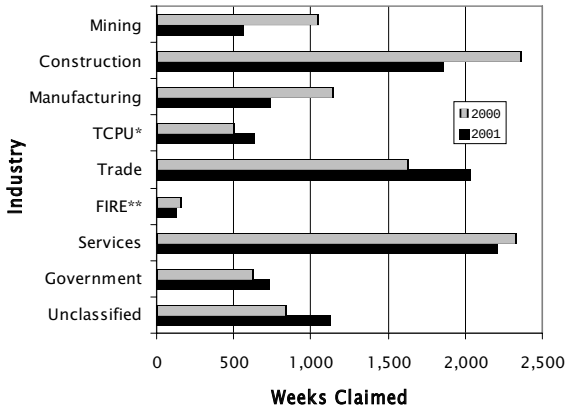
	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAY 01	APR 01	MAY 00	APR 01 MAY 01	MAY 00 MAY 01
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,017	1,458	1,144	-30.2	-11.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	292	482	444	-39.4	-34.2
Mining	57	108	142	-47.2	-59.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	45	91	113	-50.5	-60.2
Construction	156	283	249	-44.9	-37.3
Manufacturing	79	91	53	-13.2	49.1
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	601	819	609	-26.6	-1.3
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	35	87	44	-59.8	-20.5
Transportation	29	75	38	-61.3	-23.7
Communications & Public Utilities	6	12	6	-50.0	0.0
Trade	223	296	175	-24.7	27.4
Wholesale Trade	34	37	30	-8.1	13.3
Retail Trade	189	259	145	-27.0	30.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	17	18	19	-5.6	-10.5
Services	262	344	281	-23.8	-6.8
Personal & Business Services	69	71	58	-2.8	19.0
Health Services	28	26	22	7.7	27.3
Government	64	74	90	-13.5	-28.9
Local Government	32	33	42	-3.0	-23.8
Local Education	16	10	25	60.0	-36.0
UNCLASSIFIED	124	157	91	-21.0	36.3
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	174	148	119	17.6	46.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	44	63	28	-30.2	57.1
Mining	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
Construction	27	53	21	-49.1	28.6
Manufacturing	17	10	6	70.0	183.3
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	120	74	76	62.2	57.9
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	12	10	3	20.0	300.0
Transportation	11	8	3	37.5	266.7
Communications & Public Utilities	1	2	0	-50.0	0.0
Trade	43	24	20	79.2	115.0
Wholesale Trade	5	3	3	66.7	66.7
Retail Trade	38	21	17	81.0	123.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	6	2	3	200.0	100.0
Services	49	29	39	69.0	25.6
Personal & Business Services	11	15	6	-26.7	83.3
Health Services	10	2	2	400.0	400.0
Government	10	9	11	11.1	-9.1
Local Government	3	3	4	0.0	-25.0
Local Education	1	0	2	0.0	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	11	15	-9.1	-33.3
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	119	160	165	-25.6	-27.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	34	49	66	-30.6	-48.5
Mining	9	18	22	-50.0	-59.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	8	18	21	-55.6	-61.9
Construction	16	23	36	-30.4	-55.6
Manufacturing	9	8	8	12.5	12.5
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	76	92	96	-17.4	-20.8
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	4	12	6	-66.7	-33.3
Transportation	3	11	3	-72.7	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	1	1	3	0.0	-66.7
Trade	29	27	44	7.4	-34.1
Wholesale Trade	10	6	11	66.7	-9.1
Retail Trade	19	21	33	-9.5	-42.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2	2	4	0.0	-50.0
Services	36	46	30	-21.7	20.0
Personal & Business Services	12	14	12	-14.3	0.0
Health Services	4	10	4	-60.0	0.0
Government	5	5	12	0.0	-58.3
Local Government	4	4	4	0.0	0.0
Local Education	2	0	2	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	9	19	3	-52.6	200.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

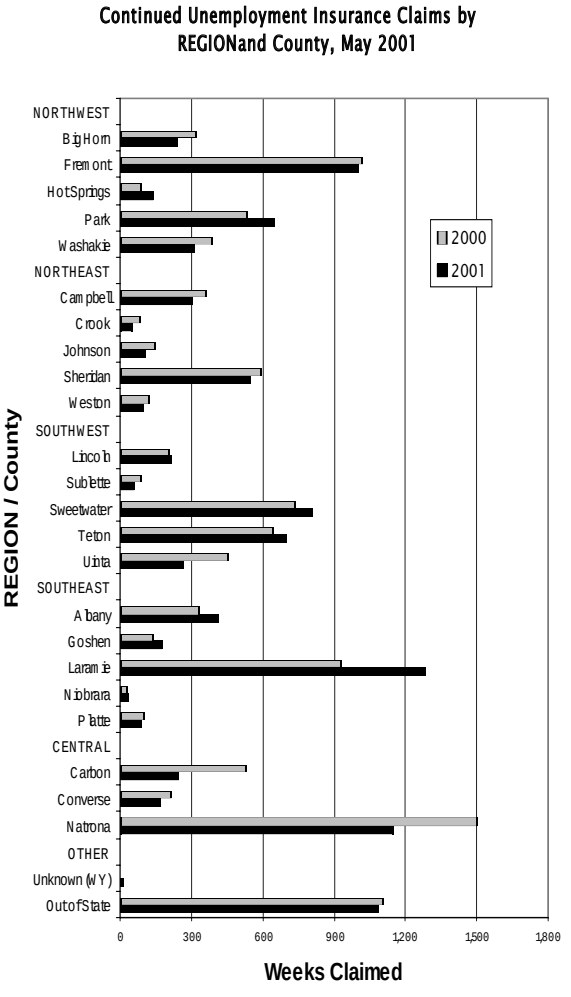
by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

"In over-the-year comparisons, the number of weeks claimed for oil and gas extraction sharply declined between May 2000 and May 2001."

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAY 01	APR 01	MAY 00	APR 01 MAY 01	MAY 00 MAY 01
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	10,053	13,954	10,588	-28.0	-5.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,915	4,630	3,078	-37.0	-5.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3,175	5,437	4,536	-41.6	-30.0
Mining	567	771	1,041	-26.5	-45.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	372	486	825	-23.5	-54.9
Construction	1,863	3,663	2,356	-49.1	-20.9
Manufacturing	745	1,003	1,139	-25.7	-34.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	5,746	7,068	5,213	-18.7	10.2
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	637	789	501	-19.3	27.1
Transportation	459	581	401	-21.0	14.5
Communications & Public Utilities	178	208	100	-14.4	78.0
Trade	2,036	2,330	1,624	-12.6	25.4
Wholesale Trade	315	326	189	-3.4	66.7
Retail Trade	1,721	2,004	1,435	-14.1	19.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	128	174	148	-26.4	-13.5
Services	2,211	2,606	2,321	-15.2	-4.7
Personal & Business Services	583	659	552	-11.5	5.6
Health Services	210	198	265	6.1	-20.8
Government	734	1,169	619	-37.2	18.6
Local Government	265	338	215	-21.6	23.3
Local Education	100	104	85	-3.8	17.6
UNCLASSIFIED	1,132	1,449	839	-21.9	34.9
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,280	1,632	923	-21.6	38.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	375	527	268	-28.8	39.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	357	617	334	-42.1	6.9
Mining	3	4	8	-25.0	-62.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	7	0.0	0.0
Construction	274	553	289	-50.5	-5.2
Manufacturing	80	60	37	33.3	116.2
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	818	878	476	-6.8	71.8
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	186	224	72	-17.0	158.3
Transportation	83	105	55	-21.0	50.9
Communications & Public Utilities	103	119	17	-13.4	505.9
Trade	262	273	145	-4.0	80.7
Wholesale Trade	34	39	13	-12.8	161.5
Retail Trade	228	234	132	-2.6	72.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	19	34	22	-44.1	-13.6
Services	269	248	172	8.5	56.4
Personal & Business Services	139	130	89	6.9	56.2
Health Services	29	32	24	-9.4	20.8
Government	82	99	65	-17.2	26.2
Local Government	25	30	4	-16.7	525.0
Local Education	9	11	1	-18.2	800.0
UNCLASSIFIED	105	137	113	-23.4	-7.1
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,143	1,445	1,502	-20.9	-23.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	325	470	436	-30.9	-25.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	338	575	618	-41.2	-45.3
Mining	63	123	127	-48.8	-50.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	49	93	111	-47.3	-55.9
Construction	191	342	357	-44.2	-46.5
Manufacturing	84	110	134	-23.6	-37.3
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	742	784	785	-5.4	-5.5
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	61	82	64	-25.6	-4.7
Transportation	51	55	47	-7.3	8.5
Communications & Public Utilities	10	27	17	-63.0	-41.2
Trade	276	299	305	-7.7	-9.5
Wholesale Trade	82	89	63	-7.9	30.2
Retail Trade	194	210	242	-7.6	-19.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	29	39	34	-25.6	-14.7
Services	316	289	331	9.3	-4.5
Personal & Business Services	103	110	99	-6.4	4.0
Health Services	78	40	89	95.0	-12.4
Government	60	75	51	-20.0	17.6
Local Government	28	13	19	115.4	47.4
Local Education	7	0	7	0	0
UNCLASSIFIED	63	86	99	-26.7	-36.4



*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities. **Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.



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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use $300

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. G-12
Cheyenne, WY