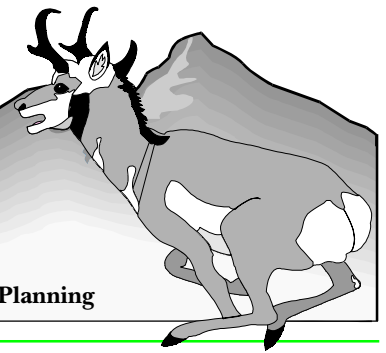


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Retention of Wyoming's Labor Force: Holding on to Households

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"Labor market attachment may hinge on whether or not two or more members of the household have similar access to meaningful, competitively compensated job opportunities."

Labor market analysis has traditionally considered the individual as the focus of understanding national and regional labor market experiences for different demographic groups. An alternative is to consider the household as the focus. By focusing on the household, our analysis emphasizes the importance of work opportunities for all demographic segments, even though the available data make this task difficult.¹ Using selected economic indicators (e.g., labor force growth rate, population growth, average annual pay, median weekly earnings), we evaluate

differences in labor force attachment between individuals and households, and differences between genders. Our analysis is predicated on the assumption that decisions to stay and work in Wyoming are household or family decisions rather than decisions by individuals. Our analysis suggests that Wyoming's ability to retain and develop its current skilled labor force may require expanding existing employment opportunities for secondary wage earners, but most notably to include broadening the industrial reach of female employees beyond Retail Trade, Services and Government.

A number of factors contribute to the chilly climate for creating new opportunities for secondary wage earners within households. Among them are

- Historic and cultural patterns of industrial employment in local labor markets;
- Occupational projections which indicate the limited influence of higher education as a remedy to the state's gender gap with respect to wages; and
- The limited availability in the private sector of benefit packages comparable with public sector employment, most

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particularly in Retail Trade and Services.

National Measures of Economic Performance – Labor Force Growth

One standard for measuring economic performance of a state's labor market is the labor force growth rate.² As shown in Table 1 (see page 3), Wyoming's rate of growth over the past decade equals the national average of 11.0 percent, reflecting an increase in Wyoming's civilian labor force from 236,000 in 1990 to 262,000 in 1999. Wyoming ranks 26th among the states in terms of growth, which could be considered modest and stable. However, all six neighboring states have exceeded Wyoming's growth over the decade.

Labor Force Relative to Population Growth

A second measure of economic well-being is how the labor force is growing relative to overall population growth. Based on decennial population data for 2000 and Table 1, the labor force grew faster than the population in almost half of all states as a result of baby boom generation growth and participation in the labor force. Though Wyoming's labor force has grown by 11.0 percent, the state's population increased at a lower rate, 8.9 percent. Wyoming has a maturing baby boom generation, almost all of whom participate in the labor market.³

At both ends of the labor market's age scale, for workers in

their early twenties and those approaching traditional retirement age, migration from the state may occur for a multitude of noneconomic or job-related reasons (i.e., marriage, higher education, career paths, proximity to family, climate, health reasons). However, for those members of working households who want to continue to live and work in Wyoming, or who seek to move to Wyoming from elsewhere, labor market attachment may hinge on whether or not two or more members of the household have similar access to meaningful, competitively compensated job opportunities within commuting distance of their homes. Recent population trends suggest that Wyoming

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Table 1: Civilian Labor Force by State, 1990 & 1999

	Civilian Labor Force		Change		Rank by % Change***
	1990*	1999**	Number	Percent	
United States	123,678,000	137,260,000	13,582,000	11.0%	
Nevada	665,000	942,000	277,000	41.7%	1
Idaho	493,000	655,000	162,000	32.9%	2
Utah	817,000	1,084,000	267,000	32.7%	3
Arizona	1,801,000	2,364,000	563,000	31.3%	4
Colorado	1,764,000	2,264,000	500,000	28.3%	5
Georgia	3,300,000	4,088,000	788,000	23.9%	6
Washington	2,538,000	3,076,000	538,000	21.2%	7
Texas	8,617,000	10,206,000	1,589,000	18.4%	8
Montana	401,000	474,000	73,000	18.2%	9
Oregon	1,490,000	1,760,000	270,000	18.1%	10
Tennessee	2,388,000	2,819,000	431,000	18.0%	11
Alaska	270,000	315,000	45,000	16.7%	12
South Dakota	347,000	400,000	53,000	15.3%	13
New Mexico	708,000	810,000	102,000	14.4%	14
Florida	6,468,000	7,366,000	898,000	13.9%	15
Alabama	1,889,000	2,145,000	256,000	13.6%	16
Minnesota	2,386,000	2,699,000	313,000	13.1%	17
South Carolina	1,739,000	1,962,000	223,000	12.8%	18
Kansas	1,276,000	1,434,000	158,000	12.4%	19
Wisconsin	2,581,000	2,892,000	311,000	12.0%	20
Nebraska	814,000	911,000	97,000	11.9%	21
Louisiana	1,837,000	2,052,000	215,000	11.7%	22
Michigan	4,598,000	5,136,000	538,000	11.7%	23
North Carolina	3,469,000	3,874,000	405,000	11.7%	24
Kentucky	1,767,000	1,970,000	203,000	11.5%	25
Wyoming	236,000	262,000	26,000	11.0%	26
Vermont	304,000	336,000	32,000	10.5%	27
Indiana	2,794,000	3,078,000	284,000	10.2%	28
Missouri	2,595,000	2,847,000	252,000	9.7%	29
California	15,187,000	16,586,000	1,399,000	9.2%	30
Oklahoma	1,514,000	1,648,000	134,000	8.9%	31
Virginia	3,238,000	3,522,000	284,000	8.8%	32
Iowa	1,448,000	1,574,000	126,000	8.7%	33
Arkansas	1,126,000	1,222,000	96,000	8.5%	34
Delaware	359,000	389,000	30,000	8.4%	35
Hawaii	550,000	595,000	45,000	8.2%	36
Illinois	5,916,000	6,385,000	469,000	7.9%	37
West Virginia	761,000	817,000	56,000	7.4%	38
Mississippi	1,184,000	1,270,000	86,000	7.3%	39
Ohio	5,410,000	5,749,000	339,000	6.3%	40
New Hampshire	628,000	666,000	38,000	6.1%	41
Maryland	2,609,000	2,766,000	157,000	6.0%	42
North Dakota	318,000	337,000	19,000	6.0%	43
Maine	635,000	672,000	37,000	5.8%	44
New Jersey	4,062,000	4,207,000	145,000	3.6%	45
Pennsylvania	5,791,000	5,969,000	178,000	3.1%	46
Massachusetts	3,228,000	3,278,000	50,000	1.5%	47
New York	8,843,000	8,883,000	40,000	0.5%	48
Rhode Island	519,000	504,000	-15,000	-2.9%	49
Connecticut	1,832,000	1,692,000	-140,000	-7.6%	50

* Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/lauhome.htm>, January 3, 2001.

** Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, **State and Regional Unemployment, 1999 Annual Averages**, <http://www.bls.gov/lauhome.htm>, January 3, 2001. Beginning with January 1998 data, national labor force series reflect new composite estimation procedures and minor revisions in the population controls used in the household survey. For further information on these revisions, see "Revisions in the Current Population Survey Effective January, 1998" in the February issue of **Employment and Earnings**.

*** The percent change is rounded to the nearest tenth. States were ranked before rounding to avoid false "ties" in the ranking.

Table 2: Average Annual Pay of All Jobs Worked (Full- and Part-Time), and Median Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Wage and Salary Workers by Gender by State, 1999

Establishment Jobs*			Household Survey of Full-Time Workers**						
	Average Annual Pay	Rank	Both Sexes		Women		Men		Women's Earnings as Percent of Men's
			Median Weekly Earnings	Rank	Median Weekly Earnings	Rank	Median Weekly Earnings	Rank	
United States	\$33,313		\$549		\$473		\$618		76.5%
Alabama	28,069	31	501	31	418	37	584	30	71.6
Alaska	34,034	12	670	2	541	5	763	2	71.0
Arizona	30,523	23	498	34	452	25	538	46	83.9
Arkansas	25,371	46	425	50	374	49	485	50	77.1
California	37,564	5	586	13	524	8	621	20	84.3
Colorado	34,192	11	607	9	520	9	679	10	76.6
Connecticut	42,653	1	677	1	590	1	765	1	77.1
Delaware	35,102	9	571	16	487	17	624	18	78.0
Florida	28,911	30	489	40	428	33	535	47	79.9
Georgia	32,339	17	514	26	443	28	597	26	74.3
Hawaii	29,771	26	544	20	488	15	617	23	79.1
Idaho	26,042	42	485	42	404	40	563	39	71.7
Illinois	36,279	6	589	12	493	11	678	11	72.8
Indiana	30,027	24	540	23	428	33	630	17	67.9
Iowa	26,939	38	513	27	429	31	593	27	72.3
Kansas	28,029	32	509	28	444	26	587	28	75.5
Kentucky	27,748	34	497	36	418	37	565	38	73.9
Louisiana	27,221	36	466	47	383	46	553	41	69.3
Maine	26,887	39	502	30	455	24	545	43	83.3
Maryland	34,472	10	635	5	582	2	713	5	81.6
Massachusetts	40,331	3	612	7	532	6	684	9	77.7
Michigan	35,734	8	609	8	492	12	709	6	69.4
Minnesota	33,487	13	642	3	552	4	724	3	76.3
Mississippi	24,392	47	470	44	380	47	545	43	69.6
Missouri	29,958	25	544	20	480	19	607	25	79.1
Montana	23,253	50	460	49	368	50	532	48	69.2
Nebraska	26,633	40	495	38	415	39	575	34	72.2
Nevada	31,213	20	501	31	432	29	567	36	76.1
New Hampshire	32,139	18	599	10	492	12	698	8	70.6
New Jersey	N/A ***	4	637	4	558	3	716	4	77.8
New Mexico	26,270	41	498	34	425	35	573	35	74.2
New York	42,133	2	591	11	513	10	642	15	79.9
North Carolina	29,453	29	493	39	424	36	561	40	75.5
North Dakota	23,753	49	467	45	377	48	532	48	70.9
Ohio	31,396	19	580	14	476	20	670	12	71.1
Oklahoma	25,748	44	487	41	397	41	584	30	68.0
Oregon	30,867	22	556	19	465	23	619	21	75.1
Pennsylvania	32,694	16	567	18	472	22	648	14	72.9
Rhode Island	31,177	21	570	17	488	15	638	16	76.5
South Carolina	27,124	37	507	29	429	31	583	32	73.6
South Dakota	23,765	48	464	48	392	43	543	45	72.2
Tennessee	29,518	28	467	45	385	45	580	33	66.3
Texas	32,895	15	496	37	444	26	548	42	81.0
Utah	27,884	33	518	25	432	29	613	24	70.5
Vermont	27,595	35	533	24	481	18	585	29	82.2
Virginia	33,015	14	577	15	489	14	659	13	74.1
Washington	35,736	7	617	6	526	7	706	7	74.4
West Virginia	26,008	43	473	43	393	42	567	36	69.2
Wisconsin	29,597	27	542	22	473	21	618	22	76.6
Wyoming	25,639	45	500	33	390	44	623	19	62.6

* Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Average Annual Pay by State and Industry, Table 2*, November 17, 2000,

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/annpay.nr0.htm> (November 28, 2000). The average annual pay comes from establishment tax records. It reflects wages for all workers, including both full- and part-time.

** Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 1999, Report 943, Table 4, p. 15*, May 2000. The median weekly earnings come from the Current Population Survey (CPS). It reflects only full-time workers.

*** New Jersey data were not available for fourth quarter of 1999 and therefore are not shown for 1999. Totals for the United States were calculated using estimated data for New Jersey. For purposes of ranking, it was assumed that the 1999 annual average pay for New Jersey was the same as 1998.

employers must increasingly rely on the current stock of locally available labor to fulfill their needs.

Using National Data Sources to Compare States' Abilities to Attract and Retain Labor

Table 2 (see page 4) is comprised of two discrete types of data. From the tax records of establishments covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI), the table shows the average annual pay per job for full- and part-time labor by state. Employers covered by UI are required to report employment and pay for each job filled by a worker during a given quarter. Because individuals may work for more than one establishment, average annual pay measures average wages per job, not the total earnings of individuals. Table 2 also contains estimated median weekly earnings of full-time workers (only) for both sexes, and for men and women separately, by state. These estimates are derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS).⁴

Importantly, though Table 2 compares data from these two unique sources, the difference between data based on Wyoming UI tax files, which as discussed earlier reflects *all* full- and part-time wage earners covered by UI, and data obtained through the CPS is that this presentation of CPS data include only earnings for individuals working full-time.

UI Tax data allow Research & Planning to examine wages as a partial proxy for the competitive

position of the states in attracting and retaining labor. For example, Table 2 provides a state comparison of average annual pay. The averages reflect payroll data gathered from establishment tax records, which are reported to their respective state UI tax agencies. Average annual pay reflects the wages of all jobs worked whether full- or part-time. In 1999, the average annual pay per job in Wyoming was \$25,639. Wyoming ranked 45th among the 50 states. Wyoming's rank was similar to several regional neighbors including Montana (50th), North Dakota (49th) and South Dakota (48th). (Data for these three states are shown in bold in Table 2.)

As shown in Table 2, Wyoming, the Dakotas and Montana also ranked at comparable levels when using household data showing median weekly earnings for women. South Dakota ranked 43rd, followed by Wyoming (44th), North Dakota (48th) and Montana (50th).

Using National Data to Form a Context for Understanding Earnings Differences by Gender

The low ranking of Wyoming's average annual wage as shown in Table 2, however, disguises a more complex pattern of labor market attachment and earnings power between male and female workers. For example, earnings differences by gender, as shown in Table 2, appear especially acute. From data collected

through the CPS, median weekly earnings in 1999 for all full-time Wyoming workers (both genders) were \$500. Considered separately, females working full-time in Wyoming earned \$390 per week compared to earnings by males of \$623. When the levels of female earnings were ranked by state, Wyoming placed 44th in the nation. With respect to male earnings, Wyoming ranked 19th, just above California. In fact, median weekly earnings for males working at full-time jobs in Wyoming slightly exceeded the national average of \$618.

To put median household weekly earnings estimates into a regional perspective, we again consider the rankings of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota in comparison to Wyoming. For both sexes, and men and women separately, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota are very similar to each other in earnings. These three states rank between 43rd and 50th in all three demographic categories for earnings in Table 2. Moreover, each of these states' rankings are roughly equivalent to the state's respective ranking of average annual pay (recall that this tax count reflects both full- and part-time workers). In contrast, Wyoming's rankings for both sexes, and women and men separately, are not uniform. Men's earnings are ranked significantly higher. Wyoming's average wage ranking increases from 45th to 33rd when only full-

(Continued on page 6)

time workers are observed, while the rankings of Montana and the Dakotas remain at the same low level. To explain this difference, we need to consider whether men and women have similar access to full-time employment opportunities. Nationally, we know that approximately 10 percent of men and 25 percent of women work part-time.⁵

Baseline research on labor market attachment using Wyoming wage records showed that in 1998 only 43.7 percent of all Wyoming workers were classified as steady workers with a single employer.⁶ Gathered from other Wyoming administrative databases and matched to the UI Wage Records database, demographic information compiled on steady workers with a single employer showed that in 1998, 51.9 percent were male and 49.0 percent were female.⁷ Thus, no significant gender difference exists in Wyoming within this category of labor attachment.

Relationship between Household Income and Establishment Average Pay

In Figure 1 (see page 7), a scatterplot shows the relationship between estimated median household income from the household survey and establishment average pay by state based on data from Table 2. States cluster approximately in a diagonal line, indicating a strong positive relationship between the pay and income variables. We interpret Figure 1 to mean that

average annual pay is a strong predictor of household income. We cannot rule out, however, that this relationship may be related to cost-of-living factors.

Income itself reflects the industries in which members of the labor force participate. Variations between the states reflect differences in the industrial composition of state economies, the number of persons per household who find work, and the amounts and types of non wage and salary income. For instance, in Wyoming the five industries with the largest payroll share, based on the average of quarterly earnings in 1999, were 1) Government and Government Enterprises,⁸ 2) Services, 3) Mining, 4) Retail Trade and 5) Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (TCPU).⁹ In comparison, the five industries with the largest payroll share in 1999 in Connecticut (representing the highest relative position and designated in bold in Figure 1) were 1) Manufacturing, 2) Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE), 3) Government and Government Enterprises, 4) Retail Trade and 5) Wholesale Trade. New Mexico which occupies a position below the diagonal has among its five industries with the largest payroll share in 1999: 1) Services, 2) Government, 3) Retail Trade, 4) Manufacturing and 5) Construction. The differences in the primary industries of Wyoming, Connecticut and New Mexico (shown in blue) as well as

differences in industrial composition in other states, help to explain the relative position of states in Figure 1.

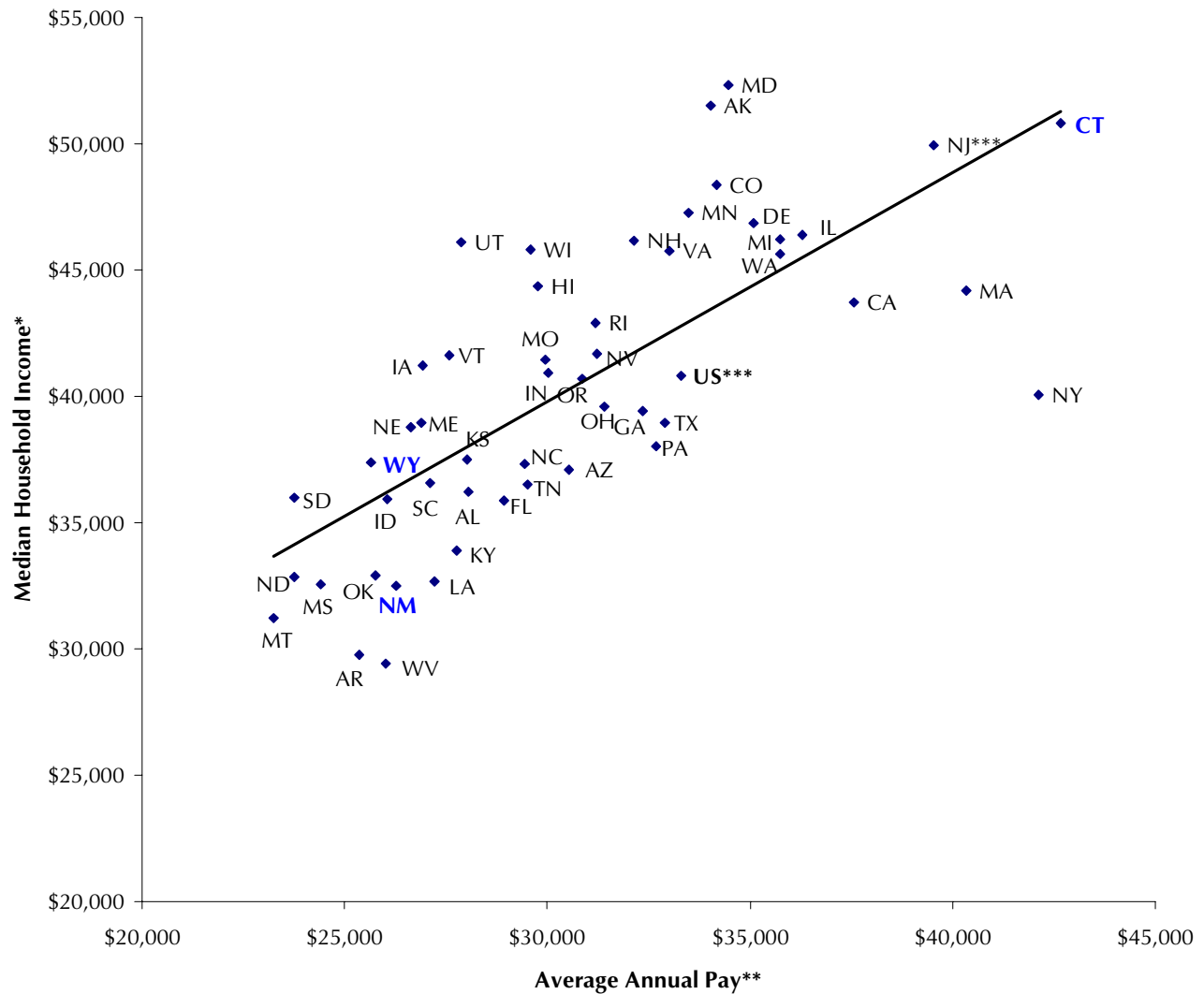
Using Administrative Databases to Characterize Attachment to the Wyoming Labor Market

Wyoming's Wage Records database, an administrative database used to calculate Unemployment Insurance benefits, in combination with demographic data from other administrative databases (e.g., driver's license database), permits us to characterize labor supply in more detail. Unlike national surveys such as the CPS, which base estimates on a sample of physical locations in each state, Wage Records reflect population working in the state regardless of where they may reside. Figures 2 through 6 represent examples of Wage Records research (see pages 8, 10, and 11).

Figure 2 (see page 8) shows the industrial distribution of Wyoming employment in 1999 and provides a baseline for comparing employment distributions by gender and age. As shown in Figure 2, two industries (Services and Retail Trade) accounted for nearly half of all employment in the state. Government (including school districts), accounted for another 18 percent. Previous articles in **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** have shown how the higher paying industries (e.g., Mining

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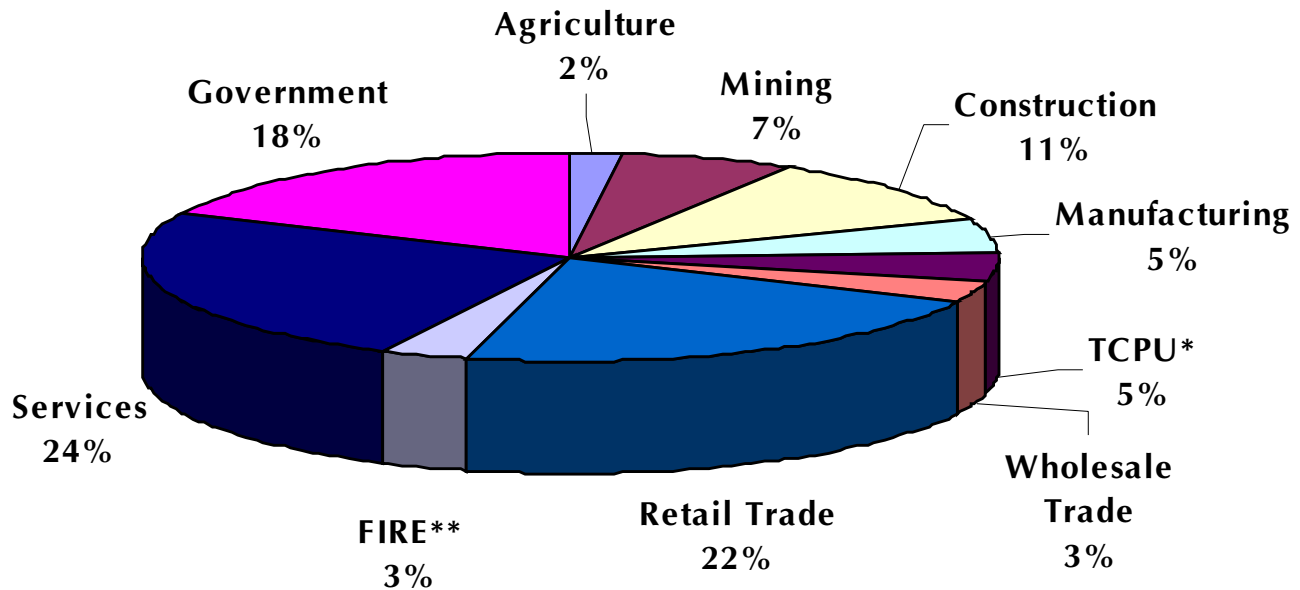
Figure 1: Average Annual Pay per Job and Household Income by State, 1999



* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Historic Income Tables - Households, Table H-8, Median Household Income by State: 1984 to 1999*, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/h08.html> (November 30, 2000).

** Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Average Annual Pay by State and Industry, Table 2*, November 17, 2000, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/annpay.nr0.htm> (November 28, 2000).

*** New Jersey data were not available for fourth quarter of 1999. Totals for the United States were calculated using estimated data for New Jersey. For estimating purposes, it was assumed that the 1999 annual average pay for New Jersey was the same as 1998.

Figure 2: Employment by Industry, 1999

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

and TCPU) have traditionally employed significantly higher proportions of male than female workers.¹⁰ These industries also, in general, retain their workers longer than either Services or Retail Trade. Therefore, employee mobility into higher paying jobs, when it may require a change from one industry to another, is limited by comparatively fewer opportunities created through attrition and turnover in the higher paying industries.

Though we do not have demographic data by industry for Montana and the Dakotas, we expect that Wyoming has a higher combined proportion of full-time employment of males in

the often closely linked industries of Mining, Construction and TCPU than Montana or the Dakotas. Partly, differences in male earnings between Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas reflect the different industrial distribution within these states. In addition, the extractive industries, which have exerted a historical and cultural influence in Wyoming, continue to assume a more central role in Wyoming's economy than in neighboring states. Furthermore, extractive industries have traditionally employed greater numbers of male employees than female employees. This helps explain the heightened earnings differential between males and females in Wyoming.

In comparison, based on 1999 UI employment data, individuals working in Montana and the Dakotas are more likely than Wyoming workers to be employed in Manufacturing.¹¹ Although the distribution of statewide employment in Retail Trade and Services in these states is proportional to Wyoming's, ostensibly larger proportions of full-time employees in these other states may be found in industries which traditionally pay lower wages than in Mining. For example, while Mining ranked as the third most significant industry in Wyoming in terms of average quarterly earnings in 1999, in

(Continued on page 9)

Montana and North Dakota, Mining ranked ninth and in South Dakota, tenth.¹²

Figures 3 through 6 (see pages 10 and 11) show how employment opportunities for individuals are distributed differently among selected gender and age categories. For example, employment opportunities for youth follow a simple pattern of industrial distribution, but the distribution was more complex for mature men. The employment distribution of mature women is much less complex than for mature men. Differences in earnings may reflect the age of workers. In labor market research, age often (but not always) reflects additional years of work experience. Figure 3 shows that in 1998, two-thirds of all males, ages 20-24, were employed in three industries, Retail Trade (28%), Construction (20%) and Services (19%). Typically, entry-level positions in these industries do not require high levels of education or experience, and higher turnover rates in these industries create opportunities. However, as indicated by Figure 5, only about one-third of males, ages 45-54, held primary jobs in these same three industries (Retail Trade, 9%; Construction 12%; and Services 13%). Additionally, approximately twice as many males, ages 45-54, worked in Mining (16%) than did males, ages 20-24. Nearly three times as many males, ages 45-54 than ages 20-24 years worked in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE — 3%);

Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (TCPU — 10%); and Government (28%). This pattern suggests that males, as they age, are able to transfer skills and prior years of experience in Construction, Services or Retail Trade to more secure jobs with single employers in industries that are generally considered higher paying.

The 1998 Wage Records data show that the distribution of females, ages 20-24 and 45-54, among industries did not differ much when compared to males in the same age groups. Figure 4 shows that nearly 75 percent of all females, ages 20-24, worked in either Retail Trade (40%) or Services (32%). Another 13 percent worked in Government. Figure 6 shows that a comparable 82 percent of females, ages 45-54, were found in these same three industries. The difference is that only 16 percent of women, ages 45-54, were employed in Retail Trade, rather than 40 percent of women, ages 20-24, in the same sector. If in their youth, significant numbers of these mature women had worked in Retail Trade or Services, they appear to have translated those earlier years of work experience into jobs or careers in Wyoming's public sector. Indeed, Figure 6 shows that 41 percent of females, ages 45-54, were found working in Government (including school districts). A comparison of Figures 4 and 6 shows that only Government appears to offer a significant number of women the

opportunity to transfer their prior experience and skills between industries. This apparent lack of industrial mobility for women (as an aggregate group) over time may also contribute to the earnings divide separating men and women. In the absence of access to full-time job opportunities in the public sector, the difference between male and female earnings would very likely be much higher.

Recognizing Household Needs in Employee Recruitment and Economic Development

The preceding analysis suggests that employee recruitment and economic development should consider the needs of households. For those Wyoming workers who choose to be married or who are otherwise dependent on another's income, attachment to a labor market is probably more likely to reflect a household strategy than an individual's preference. Likewise, an employer or economic developer's attempt to attract skilled workers must recognize that for every worker they want to attract and retain, the local labor market may, in time, need to provide or create two or more suitable opportunities for employment. In Wyoming, the primary wage earner in a household, often a male, working in a smaller and less diverse labor market, usually must weigh the decision to continue working against the comparatively restricted

(Text continued on page 12)

Figure 3: Employment of Wyoming Males, Ages 20-24 by Industry, 1998

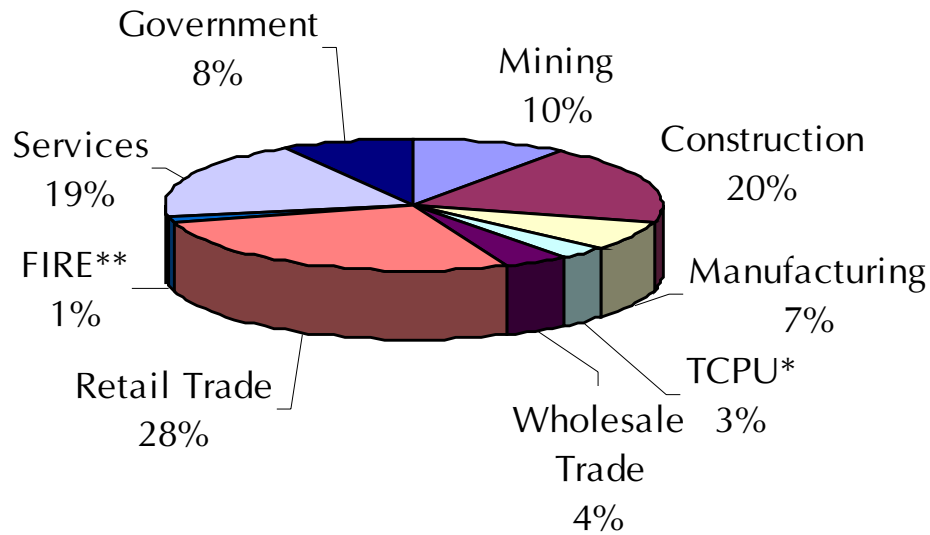
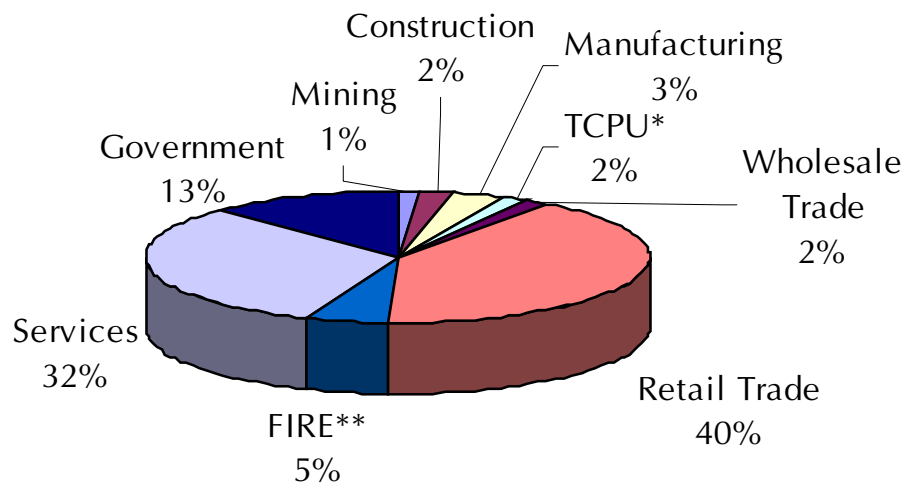


Figure 4: Employment of Wyoming Females, Ages 20-24 by Industry, 1998



* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Strategies for Evaluation, an Excerpt from Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply*, October 2000, Table 9, pp. 21-26.

Figure 5: Employment of Wyoming Males, Ages 45-54 by Industry, 1998

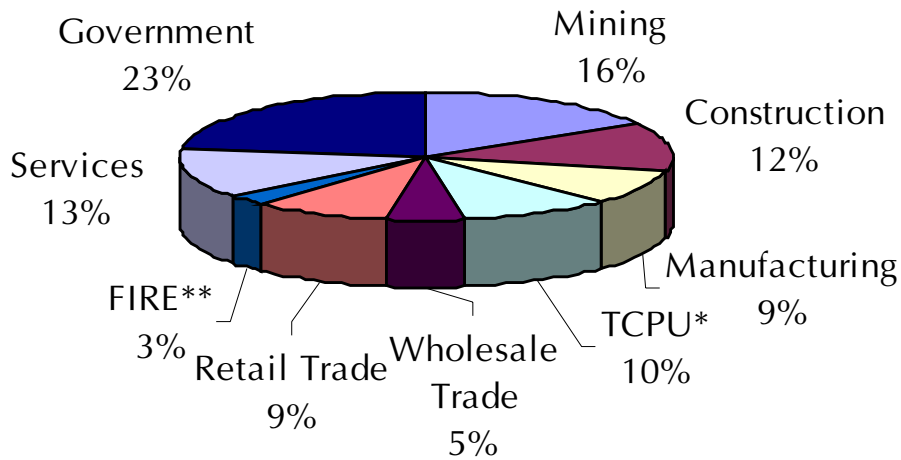
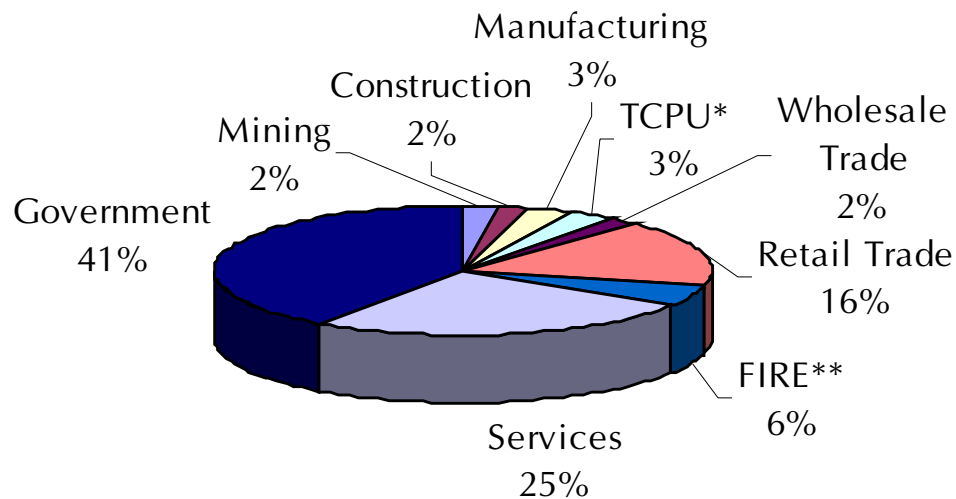


Figure 6: Employment of Wyoming Females, Ages 45-54 by Industry, 1998



* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Strategies for Evaluation, an Excerpt from Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply*, October 2000, Table 9, pp. 21-26.

employment opportunities available to a spouse or other family member.

Potentially Limited Role for Education and Training in Labor Market Attachment

One response to comparatively lower earnings for women has been increasingly to emphasize education and training.¹³ This strategy, however, must be viewed in the context of projected occupational growth for the period 1998 to 2008. Current projections show that only nine of the 50 occupations estimated to make up the largest share of new jobs in Wyoming require an Associate's degree or higher.¹⁴ Therefore, if training-related employment is not available locally, the expectations for higher wages, especially to recover the costs associated with an investment in higher education or other technical training of a spouse, may only increase the pressure on a household to relocate. Many households must consider the alternative costs and benefits associated with a family member commuting to a job, relocation elsewhere within the state, securing acceptable employment unrelated to training, or migration to higher wage areas outside Wyoming.

Government Employment and Household Attachment to the Wyoming Labor Market

Preliminary research using data from Wyoming's institutions of higher education has shown

that a significant proportion of those who do earn degrees secure employment in Government. State and Local Government agencies, including school districts, employ people in most communities. Often they are among the largest employers in a given area. Because of their size, they offer many employees, particularly females, internal opportunities for full-time career advancement that may not be available in smaller firms. Additionally, they usually provide women and their families a safety net with respect to health insurance, paid leave and other benefits that may exceed the total compensation package offered by smaller, private-sector firms.¹⁵ If the provision of health insurance or other benefits meets a household need not otherwise being met by the primary wage earner's employer, this fact alone may direct the employment decision of the secondary wage earner. Also, this may be one reason why retention rates for Government employment, as a whole, are higher than several other industries.

Often patterns of labor attachment reflect household strategies aimed at attaining an acceptable standard of living. The availability of suitable employment at competitive rates of compensation, including the provision of benefits, is a key condition in deciding whether to stay or leave a labor market.

¹Data available from the federal statistical system, which focuses on the individual is inadequate for studying entire households; however, it is the only system that allows for interstate comparison.

²Labor force growth rate refers to the annual percentage change that occurs in the total number of both employed persons (including both full- and part-time workers) and unemployed persons who were actively seeking employment. Not included in the labor force figures published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics are those persons who are not currently working and have not looked for work during the four weeks prior to the reference period. These individuals may not be looking for work because of child-care problems, transportation problems or discouragement over job prospects.

³Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply*, October 2000, p. 33. In 1998, approximately 109,000 workers between the ages of 35-54 were found working in Wyoming, accounting for about one-third of Wyoming's workforce.

⁴The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a household survey conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁵U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Table A-6: Employed and Unemployed Full- and Part-Time Workers by Sex and Age, Seasonally

(Continued on page 13)

Adjusted," **Employment and Earnings**, December 2000, p. 18. Rounded percentages were computed from monthly data.

⁶Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Wyoming Wage Records 1992-1998: A Baseline Study**, November 2000, p. 66.

⁷Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Wyoming Wage Records 1992-1998: A Baseline Study**, p. 66.

⁸Government Enterprises include federal government.

⁹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Regional Accounts Data, State Quarterly Personal Income," 1999, <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/sqpi/> (January 31, 2001).

¹⁰Rich Peters, "The Importance of Major Industry to Wyoming's Gender Pay Gap, Part One," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, July 2000, pp. 1-5. This article also cites most prior research on the subject of gender and wages published in **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**.

¹¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "State at a Glance, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, State and Area, Employment Hours and Earnings: 1991-1999," <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.map.htm> (January 26, 2001).

¹²U.S. Department of Commerce.

¹³Research & Planning expects to publish an article this spring, jointly written with Casper College personnel, that highlights an

outcomes-based approach to measuring labor market performance of graduates, including using employer satisfaction surveys as a tool for responding to new labor market needs and improving instructional programs.

¹⁴Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, "Table 3-8: Wyoming Projections for All Occupations, Net and Percent Employment Change, 1998-2008," **Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply**, October 2000, Appendix 1.

¹⁵Carola Cowan, "Employee Benefits Survey: Compensation Revisited," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, August 2000, pp. 1-8. This article also cites Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Employee Benefits Survey: A Pilot Study for Wyoming**, July 1999.

**State Unemployment Rates
December 2000
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	8.9
Alaska	6.1
District of Columbia	5.8
West Virginia	5.5
Louisiana	5.3
Idaho	5.0
Montana	4.9
New Mexico	4.9
Washington	4.9
Illinois	4.5
California	4.3
Mississippi	4.3
New York	4.2
Alabama	4.0
Nevada	4.0
Oregon	4.0
Arkansas	3.9
Pennsylvania	3.8
Tennessee	3.8
Kentucky	3.7
Ohio	3.7
United States	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Hawaii	3.6
North Carolina	3.6
New Jersey	3.5
Michigan	3.4
Texas	3.4
Arizona	3.3
Delaware	3.3
Maryland	3.3
South Carolina	3.3
Florida	3.2
Kansas	3.2
Missouri	3.2
Rhode Island	3.2
Georgia	3.0
Wisconsin	3.0
Minnesota	2.8
Indiana	2.7
North Dakota	2.7
Utah	2.7
Maine	2.6
Oklahoma	2.6
Iowa	2.5
Nebraska	2.5
Vermont	2.4
South Dakota	2.3
New Hampshire	2.2
Colorado	2.1
Massachusetts	2.0
Virginia	1.9
Connecticut	1.5



State Unemployment Rates December 2000 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.1
District of Columbia	6.3
Alaska	6.0
Louisiana	5.8
West Virginia	5.5
New Mexico	5.3
Mississippi	5.1
Idaho	4.9
Washington	4.9
Illinois	4.8
Alabama	4.6
California	4.6
Nevada	4.5
New York	4.5
Montana	4.4
Pennsylvania	4.4
Hawaii	4.3
Tennessee	4.3
Oregon	4.2
Arkansas	4.1
Kentucky	4.1
North Carolina	4.0
United States	4.0
New Jersey	3.9
Ohio	3.9
Delaware	3.8
Michigan	3.8
Arizona	3.7
Maryland	3.7
Rhode Island	3.7
South Carolina	3.7
Texas	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Florida	3.6
Kansas	3.4
Missouri	3.4
Georgia	3.3
Utah	3.3
Wisconsin	3.3
Minnesota	3.1
Indiana	2.8
Maine	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
North Dakota	2.7
Oklahoma	2.7
Iowa	2.5
Vermont	2.5
Colorado	2.4
Massachusetts	2.3
New Hampshire	2.3
South Dakota	2.3
Virginia	2.1
Connecticut	1.9

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Falls in December

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Employment continued to grow relatively rapidly in December, as 6,300 jobs were created in Wyoming for a growth rate of 2.7 percent."

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.8 percent in November to 3.7 percent in December, its lowest level since 1980 (see page 17). It remained below the U.S. unemployment rate (4.0%) for the second month in a row.

Employment continued to grow relatively rapidly in December, as 6,300 jobs were created in Wyoming for a growth rate of 2.7 percent (see page 15). In contrast, the U.S. employment growth rate fell from 1.6 percent in November to 1.5 percent in December.

Employment growth was seen in many industries. Compared to December 1999, the largest job gains came from Mining (1,100 jobs or 6.9%), Retail Trade (800 jobs or 1.7%), Services (1,400 jobs or 2.7%) and Government (1,500 jobs or 2.5%). Within Mining, oil & gas extraction posted the largest increase (1,300 jobs or 15.9%), while coal mining declined slightly (-200 jobs or -4.3%). Federal government and

state government grew only slightly (100 and 300 jobs, respectively), but local government employment increased by 1,100 jobs or 2.8 percent. Local government is a large industry in Wyoming which includes school districts, community colleges, many hospitals and city and county governments.

Twenty Wyoming counties experienced a decrease in their unemployment rates from December 1999 to December 2000 (see page 17). Niobrara County's unemployment rate increased from 2.2 percent in December 1999 to 4.2 percent in December 2000 (an increase of 25 individuals). Albany County and Goshen County had more modest increases (up 0.2% and 0.4%, respectively). Fremont County had the highest unemployment rate in December 2000, an estimated 6.8 percent, while Teton County had the lowest (1.6%).



Trends is also available online at

<http://lmi.state.wy.us/>

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

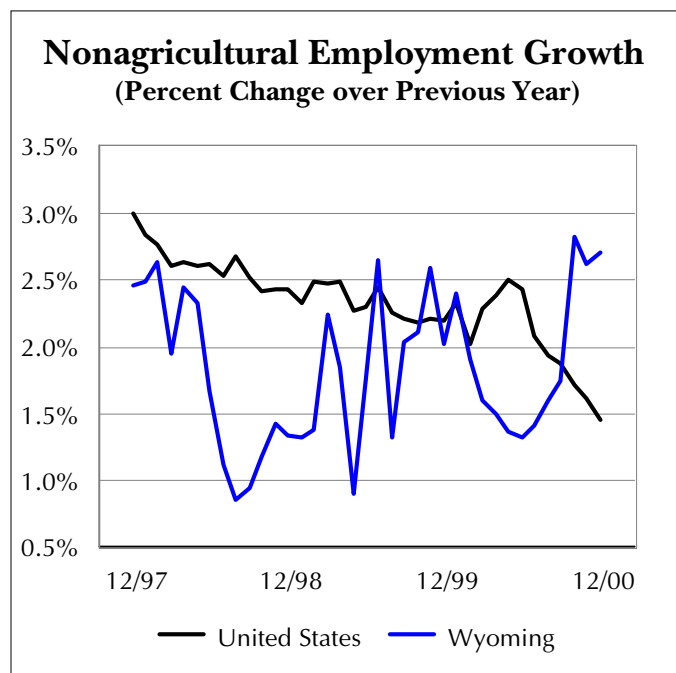
"Within Mining, oil & gas extraction posted the largest increase (1,300 jobs or 15.9%), while coal mining declined slightly (-200 jobs or -4.3%)."

WYOMING STATEWIDE ²	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	DEC00(p)	NOV00(r)	DEC.99	NOV 00	DEC.00		DEC00(p)	NOV00(r)	DEC.99	NOV 00	DEC.00
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	238.6	239.4	232.3	-0.3	2.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.9	36.8	36.0	0.3	2.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	45.6	46.6	43.8	-2.1	4.1	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.0	4.1	4.1	-2.4	-2.4
Mining	17.1	17.1	16.0	0.0	6.9	Mining & Construction	2.3	2.4	2.5	-4.2	-8.0
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	-4.3	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	9.5	9.5	8.2	0.0	15.9	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	32.9	32.7	31.9	0.6	3.1
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.6	2.7	2.5	-3.7	4.0	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.9	6.8	5.7	1.5	21.1	Trade	8.9	8.9	8.7	0.0	2.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.8	17.7	16.4	-5.1	2.4	Retail Trade	8.1	8.1	7.9	0.0	2.5
General Building Contractors	4.3	4.5	3.7	-4.4	16.2	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Heavy Construction	4.6	5.0	4.8	-8.0	-4.2	Services	8.2	8.1	7.7	1.2	6.5
Special Trade Construction	7.9	8.2	7.9	-3.7	0.0	Total Government	11.2	11.1	11.0	0.9	1.8
Manufacturing	11.7	11.8	11.4	-0.8	2.6	Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0	State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	6.5	6.6	6.3	-1.5	3.2	Local Government	5.5	5.4	5.3	1.9	3.8
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0						
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	193.0	192.8	188.5	0.1	2.4	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.4	14.6	14.1	-1.4	2.1	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.1	32.1	31.1	0.0	3.2
Transportation	9.4	9.6	8.9	-2.1	5.6	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.3	5.5	5.1	-3.6	3.9
Railroad Transportation	3.2	3.3	2.7	-3.0	18.5	Mining	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	11.1
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.8	3.7	-2.6	0.0	Construction	1.7	1.9	1.8	-10.5	-5.6
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.1	1.1	-9.1	-9.1	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.8	26.6	26.0	0.8	3.1
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-6.7	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.0	20.0
Trade	54.6	54.7	53.6	-0.2	1.9	Communications & Public Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6	Trade	8.8	8.8	8.7	0.0	1.1
Durable Goods	4.5	4.4	4.3	2.3	4.7	Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	Retail Trade	6.5	6.5	6.4	0.0	1.6
Retail Trade	46.8	47.0	46.0	-0.4	1.7	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	Services	9.4	9.3	9.1	1.1	3.3
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8	Personal & Business Services	2.0	2.2	2.0	-9.1	0.0
Department Stores	4.6	4.6	4.1	0.0	12.2	Health Services	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Food Stores	5.6	5.6	5.8	0.0	-3.4	Government	5.6	5.5	5.4	1.8	3.7
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.3	8.4	8.2	-1.2	1.2	Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Gas Stations	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-6.7	Local Government	4.3	4.2	4.1	2.4	4.9
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.0	13.3	Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	16.7	16.8	16.3	-0.6	2.5						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.4	8.3	8.1	1.2	3.7						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.2	4.1	2.4	4.9						
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0						
Insurance	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6						
Services	54.1	53.4	52.7	1.3	2.7						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.9	7.7	7.4	2.6	6.8						
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6						
Business Services	8.3	8.4	8.0	-1.2	3.8						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6						
Amusements (Rec. Services & Mot. Pics.)	4.1	3.3	4.0	24.2	2.5						
Health Services	11.0	11.0	10.8	0.0	1.9						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0						
Legal Services	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0						
Social Services	6.2	6.1	6.0	1.6	3.3						
Membership Organizations	3.5	3.7	3.8	-5.4	-7.9						
Engineering & Management	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	5.4						
Government	61.5	61.8	60.0	-0.5	2.5						
Total Federal Government	7.0	7.2	6.9	-2.8	1.4						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5						
Total State Government	13.9	13.9	13.6	0.0	2.2						
State Education	5.6	5.7	5.6	-1.8	0.0						
Total Local Government	40.6	40.7	39.5	-0.2	2.8						
Local Hospitals	5.2	5.1	4.9	2.0	6.1						
Local Education	23.4	23.2	23.1	0.9	1.3						

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.



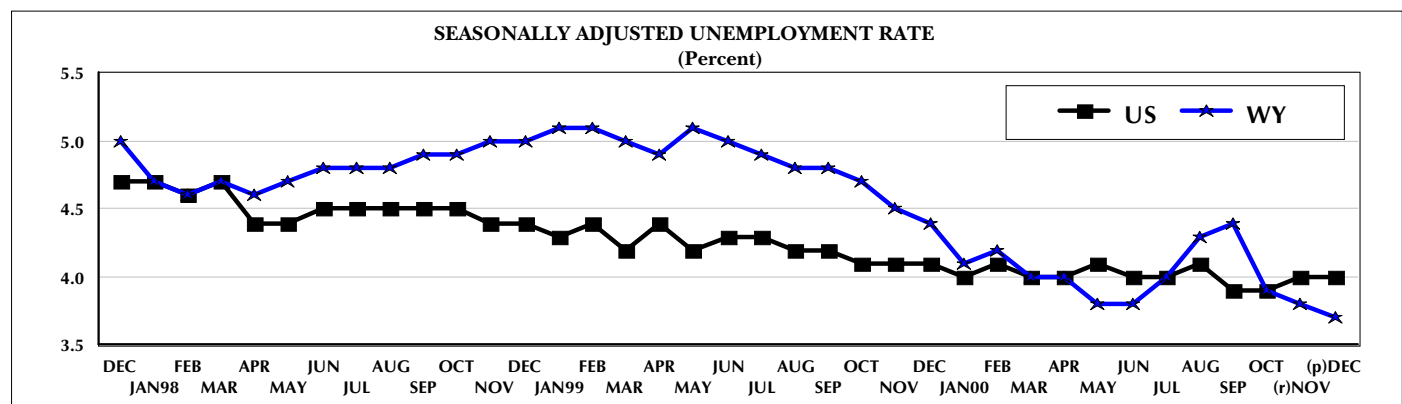
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistical Technician

"When compared with December 1999, the consumer price index rose 3.4 percent in December 2000."

	December 2000 (p)	November 2000 (r)	December 1999 (b)	Percent Month	Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	261,999	264,125	260,091	-0.8	0.7
Unemployed	9,752	9,404	11,540	3.7	-15.5
Employed	252,247	254,721	248,551	-1.0	1.5
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.7%/3.7%	3.6%/3.8%	4.4%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.7%/4.0%	3.8%/4.0%	3.7%/4.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,735,000	7,455,000	8,037,000	3.8	-3.8
As a percent of all workers	5.7%	5.5%	6.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	265,000	234,000	267,000	13.2	-0.7
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,246,000	3,241,000	3,332,000	0.2	-2.6
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$859.13	\$879.97	\$884.52	-2.4	-2.9
Average Weekly Hours	44.7	45.5	45.5	-1.8	-1.8
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$765.78	\$769.41	\$763.24	-0.5	0.3
Average Weekly Hours	44.6	45.1	44.4	-1.1	0.5
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$623.15	\$598.69	\$600.46	4.1	3.8
Average Weekly Hours	40.1	38.7	39.4	3.6	1.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$607.52	\$608.19	\$603.50	-0.1	0.7
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	41.6	42.5	-0.7	-2.8
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	12,973	9,504	12,164	36.5	6.7
Benefits Paid	\$2,627,681	\$1,894,695	\$2,210,676	38.7	18.9
Average Weekly Benefits Payment	\$202.55	\$199.36	\$181.74	1.6	11.5
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	214,088	214,139	211,616	-0.0	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.7%	1.3%	1.5%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	174.0	174.1	168.3	-0.1	3.4
Food & Beverages	170.5	169.5	165.9	0.6	2.8
Housing	171.9	171.6	164.8	0.2	4.3
Apparel	127.8	131.8	130.1	-3.0	-1.8
Transportation	154.4	155.2	148.3	-0.5	4.1
Medical Care	264.8	264.1	254.2	0.3	4.2
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	103.7	103.7	102.0	0.0	1.7
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	103.6	103.2	102.3	0.4	1.3
Other Goods & Services	274.0	276.2	263.0	-0.8	4.2
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	135.7	134.6	127.8	0.8	6.2
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	56	114	120	-50.9	-53.3
Valuation	\$9,742,000	\$14,405,000	\$10,731,000	-32.4	-9.2

(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

"In December 2000, each region in Wyoming posted over-the-year decreases in the unemployment rate."

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 2000 (p)	Nov 2000 (r)	Dec 1999 (b)	Dec 2000 (p)	Nov 2000 (r)	Dec 1999 (b)	Dec 2000 (p)	Nov 2000 (r)	Dec 1999 (b)	Dec 2000 (p)	Nov 2000 (r)	Dec 1999 (b)
NORTHWEST	45,295	45,918	46,205	42,875	43,677	43,507	2,420	2,241	2,698	5.3	4.9	5.8
Big Horn	5,929	6,052	5,846	5,639	5,784	5,471	290	268	375	4.9	4.4	6.4
Fremont	17,795	18,068	18,162	16,577	16,937	16,860	1,218	1,131	1,302	6.8	6.3	7.2
Hot Springs Park	2,397	2,413	2,453	2,307	2,337	2,354	90	76	99	3.8	3.1	4.0
Washakie	14,256	14,442	14,765	13,613	13,841	14,072	643	601	693	4.5	4.2	4.7
	4,918	4,943	4,979	4,739	4,778	4,750	179	165	229	3.6	3.3	4.6
NORTHEAST	44,380	44,910	44,141	42,835	43,458	42,262	1,545	1,452	1,879	3.5	3.2	4.3
Campbell	20,505	20,760	19,956	19,902	20,156	19,183	603	604	773	2.9	2.9	3.9
Crook	2,925	3,017	3,056	2,826	2,914	2,887	99	103	169	3.4	3.4	5.5
Johnson	3,776	3,896	3,820	3,671	3,784	3,685	105	112	135	2.8	2.9	3.5
Sheridan	13,827	13,839	13,888	13,240	13,333	13,253	587	506	635	4.2	3.7	4.6
Weston	3,347	3,398	3,421	3,196	3,271	3,254	151	127	167	4.5	3.7	4.9
SOUTHWEST	52,932	52,668	51,985	51,042	50,721	49,535	1,890	1,947	2,450	3.6	3.7	4.7
Lincoln	6,730	6,827	6,471	6,396	6,563	6,070	334	264	401	5.0	3.9	6.2
Sublette	2,970	3,108	3,016	2,905	3,053	2,938	65	55	78	2.2	1.8	2.6
Sweetwater	20,601	20,573	20,884	19,738	19,737	19,733	863	836	1,151	4.2	4.1	5.5
Teton	12,154	11,487	10,826	11,956	11,149	10,566	198	338	260	1.6	2.9	2.4
Uinta	10,477	10,673	10,788	10,047	10,219	10,228	430	454	560	4.1	4.3	5.2
SOUTHEAST	70,552	71,134	69,128	68,633	69,399	67,049	1,919	1,735	2,079	2.7	2.4	3.0
Albany	17,818	18,026	17,598	17,504	17,724	17,319	314	302	279	1.8	1.7	1.6
Goshen	6,512	6,649	6,614	6,323	6,493	6,450	189	156	164	2.9	2.3	2.5
Laramie	40,421	40,597	39,061	39,233	39,527	37,634	1,188	1,070	1,427	2.9	2.6	3.7
Niobrara	1,278	1,291	1,314	1,224	1,253	1,285	54	38	29	4.2	2.9	2.2
Platte	4,523	4,571	4,541	4,349	4,402	4,361	174	169	180	3.8	3.7	4.0
CENTRAL	48,840	49,499	48,634	46,862	47,469	46,199	1,978	2,030	2,435	4.0	4.1	5.0
Carbon	8,091	8,270	8,195	7,723	7,922	7,802	368	348	393	4.5	4.2	4.8
Converse	6,505	6,646	6,680	6,223	6,395	6,297	282	251	383	4.3	3.8	5.7
Natrona	34,244	34,583	33,759	32,916	33,152	32,100	1,328	1,431	1,659	3.9	4.1	4.9
STATEWIDE	261,999	264,125	260,091	252,247	254,721	248,551	9,752	9,404	11,540	3.7	3.6	4.4
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.7	3.8	4.4
U.S.....										3.7	3.8	3.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.0	4.0	4.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/00. Run Date 01/01.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

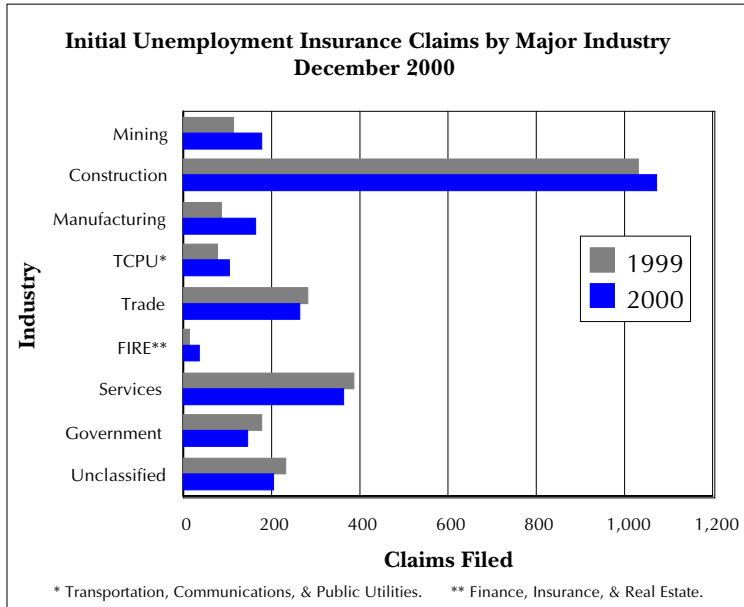
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1999 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.9 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.3 to 5.5 percent would contain the actual rate.

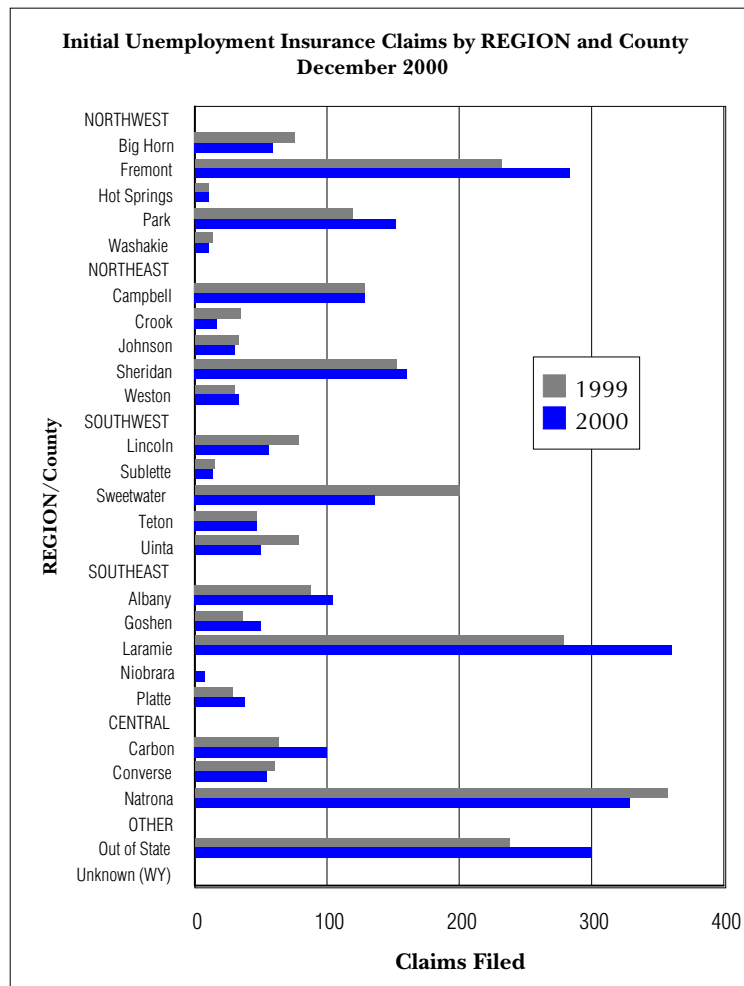
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

"Statewide, initial claims for Mining, Manufacturing, and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate increased over 50 percent from December 1999 to December 2000."



	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	DEC.00	NOV.00	DEC.99	NOV.00	DEC.00
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,551	2,528	2,423	0.9	5.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,425	1,177	1,242	21.1	14.7
Mining	181	118	117	53.4	54.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	101	61	87	65.6	16.1
Construction	1,077	965	1,036	11.6	4.0
Manufacturing	167	94	89	77.7	87.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	919	1,144	947	-19.7	-3.0
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	105	76	80	38.2	31.3
Transportation	83	61	66	36.1	25.8
Communications & Public Utilities	22	15	14	46.7	57.1
Trade	265	306	284	-13.4	-6.7
Wholesale Trade	32	27	40	18.5	-20.0
Retail Trade	233	279	244	-16.5	-4.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	37	29	17	27.6	117.6
Services	364	520	387	-30.0	-5.9
Personal & Business Services	116	121	118	-4.1	-1.7
Health Services	23	34	24	-32.4	-4.2
Government	148	213	179	-30.5	-17.3
Local Government	47	61	59	-23.0	-20.3
Local Education	10	11	16	-9.1	-37.5
UNCLASSIFIED	207	207	234	0.0	-11.5



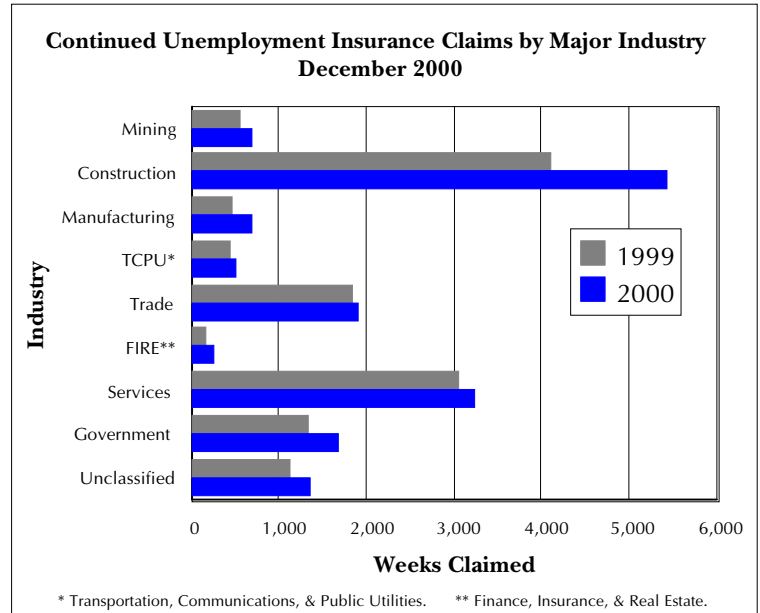
	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	DEC.00	NOV.00	DEC.99	NOV.00	DEC.00
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	361	269	279	34.2	29.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	212	144	171	47.2	24.0
Mining	15	2	3	650.0	400.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	0	2	0.0	-50.0
Construction	168	135	158	24.4	6.3
Manufacturing	29	7	10	314.3	190.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	130	110	92	18.2	41.3
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	23	15	13	53.3	76.9
Transportation	9	11	9	-18.2	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	14	4	4	250.0	250.0
Trade	36	29	26	24.1	38.5
Wholesale Trade	2	4	8	-50.0	-75.0
Retail Trade	34	25	18	36.0	88.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8	3	2	166.7	300.0
Services	50	55	35	-9.1	42.9
Personal & Business Services	26	17	17	52.9	52.9
Health Services	4	9	2	-55.6	100.0
Government	13	8	16	62.5	-18.8
Local Government	4	3	4	33.3	0.0
Local Education	0	2	3	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	19	15	16	26.7	18.8
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	327	320	356	2.2	-8.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	225	181	222	24.3	1.4
Mining	20	17	19	17.6	5.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	17	14	15	21.4	13.3
Construction	186	154	197	20.8	-5.6
Manufacturing	19	10	6	90.0	216.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	93	122	115	-23.8	-19.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	7	11	10	-36.4	-30.0
Transportation	6	9	9	-33.3	-33.3
Communications & Public Utilities	1	2	1	-50.0	0.0
Trade	37	27	42	37.0	-11.9
Wholesale Trade	6	4	8	50.0	-25.0
Retail Trade	31	23	34	34.8	-8.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5	7	5	-28.6	0.0
Services	42	60	49	-30.0	-14.3
Personal & Business Services	10	23	16	-56.5	-37.5
Health Services	10	4	6	150.0	66.7
Government	2	17	9	-88.2	-77.8
Local Government	1	11	3	-90.9	-66.7
Local Education	0	2	1	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	9	17	19	-47.1	-52.6

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

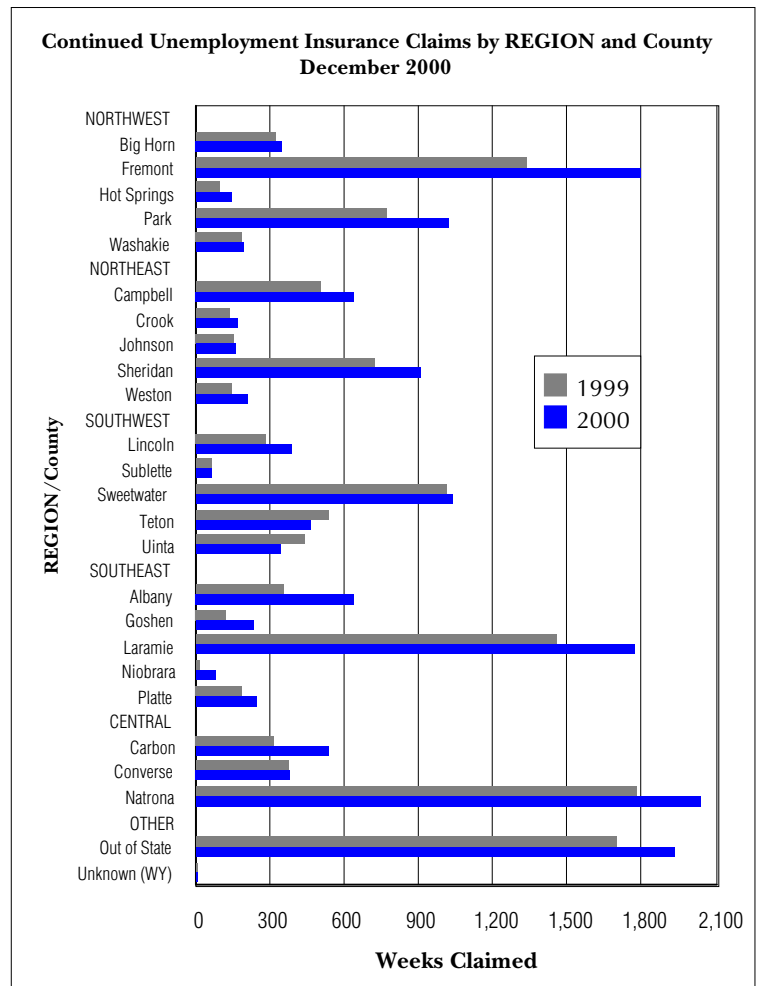
by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

"Statewide unique claimants increased 20.3 percent from December 1999 to December 2000."

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	DEC.00	NOV.00	DEC.99	NOV.00 DEC.99	DEC.00 DEC.99
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	15,812	11,589	13,102	36.4	20.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,234	3,539	4,351	47.9	20.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	6,859	4,343	5,132	57.9	33.7
Mining	708	550	566	28.7	25.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	356	301	353	18.3	0.8
Construction	5,444	3,321	4,103	63.9	32.7
Manufacturing	707	472	463	49.8	52.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	7,600	6,260	6,847	21.4	11.0
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	507	362	447	40.1	13.4
Transportation	370	258	383	43.4	-3.4
Communications & Public Utilities	137	104	64	31.7	114.1
Trade	1,916	1,693	1,838	13.2	4.2
Wholesale Trade	228	228	279	0.0	-18.3
Retail Trade	1,688	1,465	1,559	15.2	8.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	252	206	161	22.3	56.5
Services	3,243	2,721	3,067	19.2	5.7
Personal & Business Services	831	587	766	41.6	8.5
Health Services	234	240	214	-2.5	9.3
Government	1,682	1,278	1,334	31.6	26.1
Local Government	472	374	421	26.2	12.1
Local Education	140	125	119	12.0	17.6
UNCLASSIFIED	1,353	986	1,123	37.2	20.5



	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	DEC.00	NOV.00	DEC.99	NOV.00 DEC.99	DEC.00 DEC.99
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,774	1,247	1,456	42.3	21.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	595	387	500	53.7	19.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	808	438	705	84.5	14.6
Mining	24	24	6	0.0	300.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	3	0.0	0.0
Construction	729	381	683	91.3	6.7
Manufacturing	55	33	16	66.7	243.8
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	840	720	627	16.7	34.0
Transportation, Communications & P Public Utilities	101	91	81	11.0	24.7
Transportation	75	68	71	10.3	5.6
Communications & Public Utilities	26	23	10	13.0	160.0
Trade	225	214	188	5.1	19.7
Wholesale Trade	28	30	29	-6.7	-3.4
Retail Trade	197	184	159	7.1	23.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	66	68	35	-2.9	88.6
Services	345	241	226	43.2	52.7
Personal & Business Services	145	85	67	70.6	116.4
Health Services	58	55	26	5.5	123.1
Government	103	106	97	-2.8	6.2
Local Government	30	19	21	57.9	42.9
Local Education	11	9	5	22.2	120.0
UNCLASSIFIED	126	89	124	41.6	1.6



	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	DEC.00	NOV.00	DEC.99	NOV.00 DEC.99	DEC.00 DEC.99
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,045	1,614	1,780	26.7	14.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	701	509	625	37.7	12.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,010	729	848	38.5	19.1
Mining	125	116	94	7.8	33.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	88	102	50	-13.7	76.0
Construction	799	530	673	50.8	18.7
Manufacturing	86	83	81	3.6	6.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	968	816	836	18.6	15.8
Transportation, Communications & P Public Utilities	91	74	58	23.0	56.9
Transportation	44	27	44	63.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	47	47	14	0.0	235.7
Trade	263	256	290	2.7	-9.3
Wholesale Trade	61	72	68	-15.3	-10.3
Retail Trade	202	184	222	9.8	-9.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	36	20	50	80.0	-28.0
Services	404	295	357	36.9	13.2
Personal & Business Services	165	120	162	37.5	1.9
Health Services	48	42	49	14.3	-2.0
Government	174	171	81	1.8	114.8
Local Government	44	41	41	7.3	7.3
Local Education	16	18	9	-11.1	77.8
UNCLASSIFIED	67	69	96	-2.9	-30.2

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

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