

TRENDS

From Another Angle: Using Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients' Historical Data to Understand the Wyoming Labor Supply Situation

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

This research, based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit recipients' historical data, examines whether there has been a significant change in the number of nonresident UI claimants in Wyoming in recent years. It also shows these workers' states of origin.

Labor shortages have hindered business expansion for many Wyoming employers in recent years. Companies and economic development agencies have put great effort into recruiting workers from other states. This research, based on UI benefit recipients' historical data, examines whether there has been a significant change in the number of nonresident UI claimants in Wyoming in recent years. It also shows these workers' states of origin.

There were 12,201 unemployed workers collecting UI benefits in Wyoming during 2006, the lowest level in 11 years (see

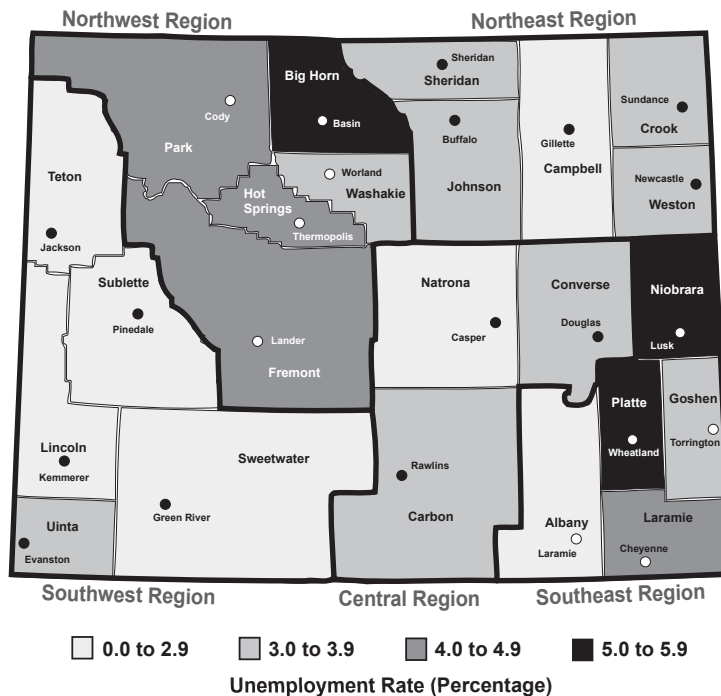
Figure 1, page 3). The number increased slightly in 2007 to 13,064, which was the second lowest number since 1997. However, in these two years the proportion of nonresident UI benefit recipients reached its highest levels: 13.4% and 13.3%, respectively. The lowest proportion was 9.6% in 2000; the trend has slowly increased since then. These data are consistent with other findings. A recent research article (Jones, 2007) found that the overall working population in Wyoming from 2004 to 2006 increased by 8.3%, of which almost all the new growth was due to nonresident labor.

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wyoming job growth continued at a healthy pace in December as 9,500 jobs were added compared to a year earlier (3.4%). In contrast, U.S. job growth decelerated to 0.9%, its slowest rate since March 2004....page 8
- Effective with the release of January 2008 data on March 11, 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will discontinue publication of all nonfarm employment series for 65 small metropolitan areas....page 11

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, December 2007 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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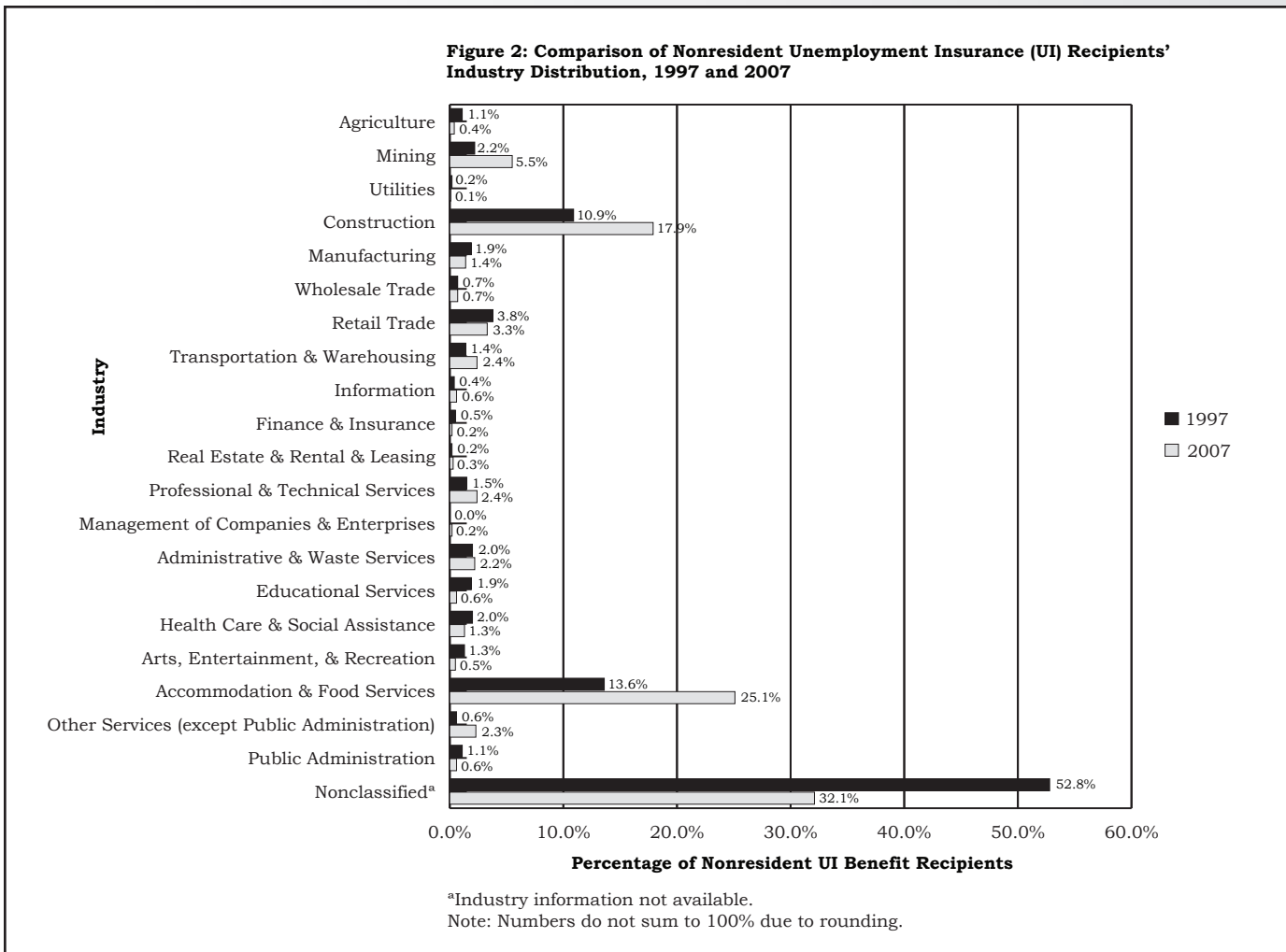
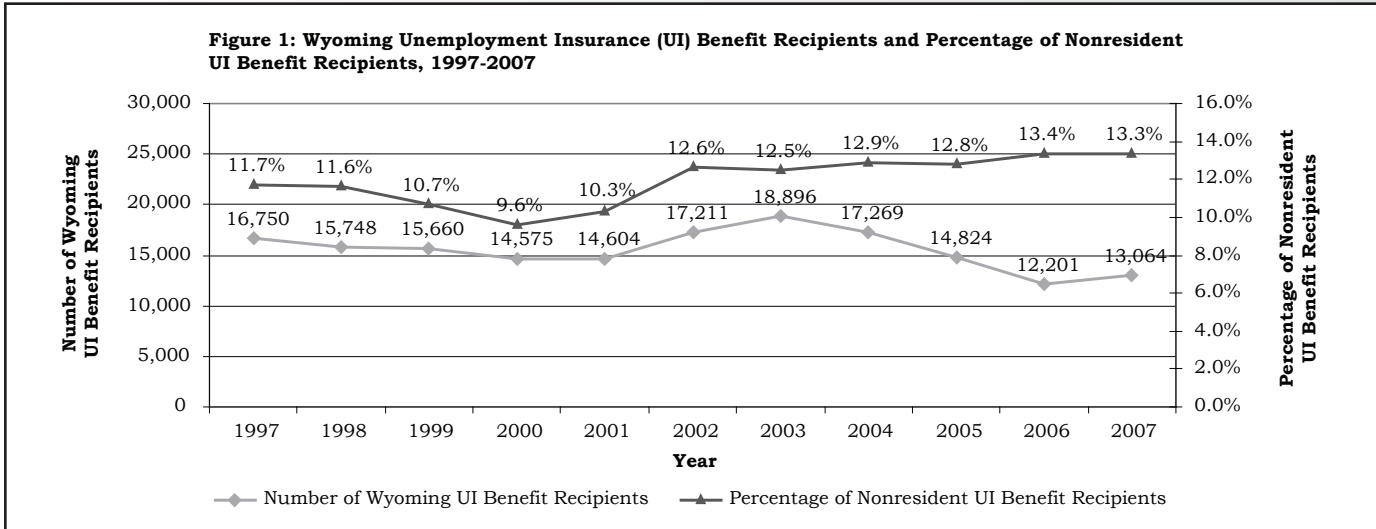
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(Text continued from page 1)

the majority of nonresident workers were employed before they began collecting UI benefits in 2007, with a comparison to

Figure 2 shows the industries in which



similar workers in 1997. One-fourth (25.1%, or 437) of the nonresident UI benefit recipients worked for accommodation & food services in 2007, almost twice the proportion of 1997 (13.6%, or 268). Other significant increases occurred in construction and mining: 17.9% (312) worked in construction in 2007, up from 10.9% (215) in 1997. Only 5.5% (96) of nonresident UI recipients worked in mining in 2007, but this was more than twice the 1997 level of 2.2% (44).

Based on the nonresident UI recipients' home addresses, the major out-of-state labor sources for Wyoming remained similar between 1997 and 2007 (see the Table). The six neighboring states (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota,

and Utah) contributed the most. Nearly half of the UI recipients in both 1997 (46.1%, or 906) and 2007 (44.7%, or 780) were from those states. Most (15.8%, or 275) were from Montana, followed by Idaho (9.4%, or 164) and Colorado (6.9%, or 120). The other 43 states contributed the remaining 53.9% (1,061) in 1997 and 55.3% (964) in 2007.

Table: Distribution of Nonresident Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients by State of Origin, 1997 and 2007

State	1997		2007	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Colorado	143	7.3%	120	6.9%
Idaho	187	9.5%	164	9.4%
Montana	296	15.0%	275	15.8%
Nebraska	75	3.8%	56	3.2%
South Dakota	114	5.8%	102	5.8%
Utah	91	4.6%	63	3.6%
Neighboring State Total	906	46.1%	780	44.7%
Other States	1,061	53.9%	964	55.3%
Total	1,967	100.0%	1,744	100.0%

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- Jones, S. D. (2007). Demographic effects of Wyoming's energy-related expansion. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 44(4). Retrieved February 20, 2008, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0407/a1.htm>

A Closer Look at LAUS

by: Roy Azar, Economist

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program provides timely monthly labor force estimates for numerous substate areas. LAUS estimates have several uses. The federal government uses the data to allocate billions of dollars in funds for various socioeconomic programs, while states use the data for planning and budgetary purposes and to determine the need for local employment and training services.

Each state, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), produces labor force estimates

through the LAUS program. In Wyoming, the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Employment

is the state entity responsible for production, analysis, and distribution of the data to local customers. The data include estimates of the civilian labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate by place of residence. R&P publishes these data monthly in the *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* publication and on the R&P website (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>).

The LAUS program provides timely monthly labor force estimates for numerous substate areas. Estimates are produced for states, metropolitan areas, micropolitan areas, counties, and cities of 25,000 people or more. Nationally, estimates are produced for more than 7,200 areas, while estimates are produced for 28 areas in Wyoming – 23 counties and 5 regions (see page 13). BLS provides funding, concepts, definitions, and methodology for the program.

LAUS data are based on place of residence and the labor force concepts and definitions from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a nationwide survey of approximately 60,000 households that is used to determine the number of people who are employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. The CPS estimates the labor force status of an individual based on place of residence during the reference week (usually the week including the 12th of the month). The following basic definitions from the CPS program are used in LAUS:

Civilian Labor Force: All persons 16 years and older who are classified either as employed or unemployed.

Employed: All persons who, during the reference week, did any work as paid employees, worked in their own

business or profession or on their own farm, worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member, or did not work but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.

Unemployed: All persons who had no employment during the reference week, but were available for work and had made specific efforts to find employment at some time during the four-week period ending with the reference week.

Unemployment Rate: The share of the civilian labor force that is unemployed, expressed as a percentage.

Labor force estimates at the state

How Unemployment Is Determined: Taking Commuting Into Account

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program tabulates employment and unemployment estimates by place of residence. Increases in intercounty commuting in Wyoming make it more difficult to accurately count employed persons. For example, a worker may commute to another county to work or may live part-time in another county for a job, meaning he or she would be counted more than once as employed. Detailed discussion of commuting is available on R&P's website (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/commute.htm>) and in "On the Road in Wyoming: Using Commuting Data to Examine Worker Patterns" by Douglas W. Leonard in the May 2007 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0507/a1.htm>).

level use data from the CPS, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, and state unemployment insurance (UI). The CES program also estimates employment, but surveys businesses and government agencies rather than households and counts jobs instead of people. The BLS provides an online document, http://www.bls.gov/web/ces_cps_trends.pdf, that explains the differences between CES and CPS employment measures. The state model estimates are controlled to sum to national monthly labor force estimates from the CPS. Estimates for the substate areas use a model named the *handbook method*. The handbook method uses data from CPS, CES, the UI system, the decennial census, the railroad UI system, and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

LAUS estimates have several uses. The federal government uses the data to

allocate billions of dollars in funds for various socioeconomic programs. States use the data for planning and budgetary purposes and to determine the need for local employment and training services. Private industry uses the estimates as an indicator of local economic conditions and labor market developments.

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Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2006). *Glossary*. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from <http://www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>

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Understanding R&P's Function

by: April Szuch, Information Specialist

This is the first article in a three-part series (available in full at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/mission.pdf>) detailing the purposes of a statistical agency.

As noted in *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, "A federal statistical entity is a unit of the federal government whose principal function is the compilation and analysis of data and the dissemination of information for statistical purposes" (Martin, Straf, & Citro, 2005). The document outlines important principles and practices that a federal statistical entity should uphold. It is suggested that statistical agencies across all states should follow the same

principles and practices (Gallagher, 2007).

Research & Planning (R&P) is an exclusively statistical entity with the purpose of compiling and analyzing data and making such information available to other government agencies, the public, businesses, and nongovernmental groups. R&P does not administer any worker training, insurance, or regulatory programs.

Mission

A statistical entity should have a clearly defined and well-accepted mission. The mission should define the entity's

responsibility for collecting, measuring, and analyzing data, as well as how the entity will provide the data and collection methods to the public.

The mission of R&P includes the following three sections:

“Our Organization: R&P is a separate, exclusively statistical entity.

“What We Do: R&P collects, analyzes, and publishes timely and accurate labor market information (LMI) meeting established statistical standards.

“Our Customers: LMI makes the labor market more efficient by providing the public and the public’s representatives with the basis for informed decision making.”

Relevance to Public Policy

One of the important principles for a state statistical entity is relevance to policy issues: “A [state] statistical entity must be in a position to provide information relevant to issues of public policy” (Martin et al., 2005). It is the entity’s responsibility to be informed about public policy and state programs and to provide objective information to both private and public groups. This must be done while maintaining neutrality on political issues. A statistical entity’s independence is one of its strongest assets.

For example, R&P’s *Occasional Paper No. 1: Evaluation of Federal Training & Education Programs* (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/Occasional/No1/toc.htm>) addresses public policy issues including the Workforce Investment Act and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys

Statistics collected and published by the federal government constitute a significant portion of the available information about the United States’ economy, population, natural resources, environment, and public and private institutions. These data are used by the federal government and others as a basis for actions that affect people’s lives and well-being. It is essential that they be collected, processed, and published in a manner that guarantees and inspires confidence in their reliability.

Source: Management and Budget Office. (2006, September 22). *Standards and guidelines for statistical surveys* (Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 184). Retrieved December 12, 2007, from <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-8044.pdf>

Another article useful to policymakers and other interested parties is “Demographic Effects of Wyoming’s Energy-Related Expansion” by Sylvia D. Jones in the April 2007 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0407/a1.htm>).

An entity also has the responsibility to hold government accountable by “obtaining, protecting, and disseminating the data that allow the accurate assessment of the influence of government policies on the public’s well-being” (Duncan, Jabine, & de Wolf, 1993). By keeping in contact with a wide range of data users, including government agencies, elected representatives, statistical agencies in other states, and interested members of the public, a statistical agency such as

R&P remains aware of research needs, uses for data, and other avenues of study.

An illustration is R&P's *Wyoming Career Explorer 2006-2007*, which was created especially for young people in the state and includes detailed information for a specific audience in the fact sheet "Exploring Math & Science Careers in Wyoming" (<http://www.doe.state.wy.us/LMI/Education/ExploreFlyer.pdf>).

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Wyoming Adds 9,500 Jobs Since December 2006

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

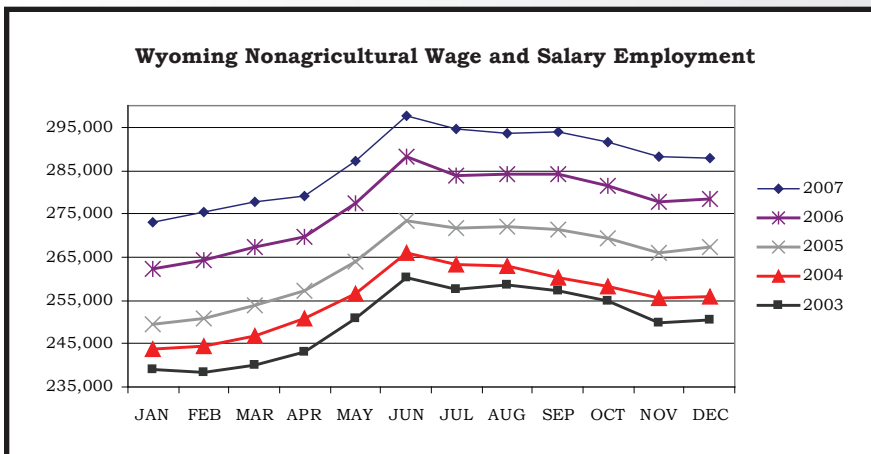
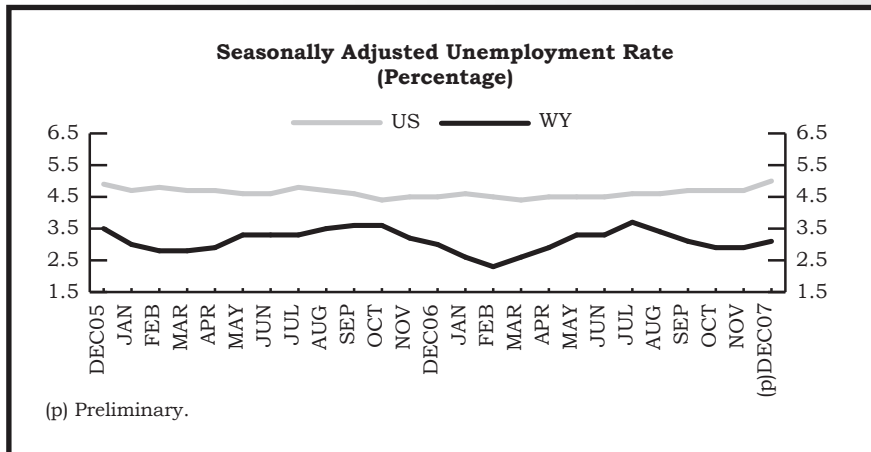
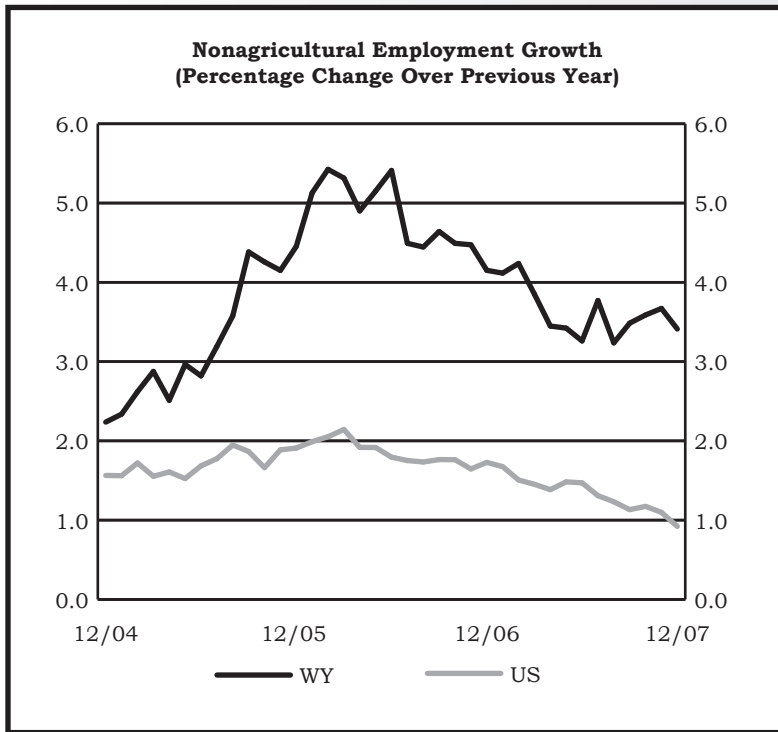
Wyoming job growth continued at a healthy pace in December as 9,500 jobs were added compared to a year earlier (3.4%). In contrast, U.S. job growth decelerated to 0.9%, its slowest rate since March 2004. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 2.9% in November to 3.1% in December but remained much lower than the U.S. unemployment rate (5.0% in December).

From November to December, Wyoming lost 100 jobs. This level of decrease is consistent with normal seasonal patterns for the state. Seasonal job losses in construction (-1,800 jobs, or -6.5%) were almost offset by seasonal job gains in retail trade (300 jobs, or 0.9%), leisure & hospitality (900 jobs, or 3.0%), and government (300 jobs, or 0.4%).

Over the year Wyoming added 9,500 jobs (3.4%). As in previous months, the largest job gains were found in the

construction sector (2,700 jobs, or 11.6%). Strong growth also occurred in wholesale trade (900 jobs, or 10.7%), transportation, warehousing, & utilities (800 jobs, or 5.7%), professional & business services (1,100 jobs, or 6.5%), and other services (800 jobs, or 7.4%). More modest growth was seen in manufacturing (300 jobs, or 2.9%), financial activities (100 jobs, or 0.9%), and government (900 jobs, or 1.3%). Employment fell slightly in natural resources & mining (-500 jobs, or -1.8%) and information (-200 jobs, or -4.7%).

Almost all county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased slightly from November to December. Big Horn and Niobrara counties had the highest unemployment rates (both 5.2%), followed by Platte County (5.0%). Unemployment was below 3% in seven counties (Sublette 1.6%, Campbell 2.1%, Albany 2.4%, Sweetwater 2.5%, Teton 2.5%, Natrona 2.9%, and Lincoln 2.9%).



State Unemployment Rates December 2007 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.2
Michigan	7.6
Mississippi	6.8
South Carolina	6.6
Alaska	6.5
California	6.1
District of Columbia	6.1
Ohio	6.0
Arkansas	5.9
Nevada	5.8
Kentucky	5.7
Oregon	5.6
Illinois	5.5
Missouri	5.5
Rhode Island	5.5
Tennessee	5.3
Maine	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
North Carolina	5.0
United States	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Minnesota	4.9
New York	4.9
West Virginia	4.9
Georgia	4.8
Washington	4.8
Arizona	4.7
Florida	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.7
Indiana	4.6
Colorado	4.5
Massachusetts	4.5
New Jersey	4.5
Oklahoma	4.5
Texas	4.5
Kansas	4.4
Louisiana	4.2
Alabama	4.0
Iowa	4.0
Vermont	4.0
Delaware	3.8
Maryland	3.8
New Mexico	3.7
Montana	3.6
New Hampshire	3.6
Virginia	3.5
North Dakota	3.3
Hawaii	3.2
Nebraska	3.2
Utah	3.2
Wyoming	3.1
Idaho	3.0
South Dakota	3.0

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Compared to a year earlier, employment fell slightly in natural resources & mining (-500 jobs, or -1.8%) and information (-200 jobs, or -4.7%).

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment			LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	Dec07(p)	Nov07(r)	Dec06	Nov07 Dec06			Dec07(p)	Nov07(r)	Dec06	Nov07 Dec06	
				Dec07	Dec06					Dec07	Dec06
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	288.0	288.1	278.5	0.0	3.4	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	44.1	44.8	42.9	-1.6	2.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	219.8	220.2	211.2	-0.2	4.1	TOTAL PRIVATE	30.7	31.3	30.0	-1.9	2.3
GOODS PRODUCING	63.8	65.4	61.3	-2.4	4.1	GOODS PRODUCING	4.5	4.8	4.7	-6.3	-4.3
Natural Resources & Mining	27.4	27.3	27.9	0.4	-1.8	Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.8	3.1	3.1	-9.7	-9.7
Mining	27.3	27.2	27.8	0.4	-1.8	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.1	4.2	4.4	-2.4	-6.8	SERVICE PROVIDING	39.6	40.0	38.2	-1.0	3.7
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.3	9.3	9.0	0.0	3.3	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10.0	10.1	9.4	-1.0	6.4
Coal Mining	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Support Activities for Mining	13.9	13.7	14.4	1.5	-3.5	Retail Trade	5.8	5.9	5.7	-1.7	1.8
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	9.9	9.8	10.2	1.0	-2.9	Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	3.4	3.4	2.9	0.0	17.2
Construction	25.9	27.7	23.2	-6.5	11.6	Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Construction of Buildings	4.6	5.0	4.8	-8.0	-4.2	Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	8.8	9.5	7.0	-7.4	25.7	Professional & Business Services	3.3	3.4	3.3	-2.9	0.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.5	13.2	11.4	-5.3	9.6	Educational & Health Services	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	5.6
Manufacturing	10.5	10.4	10.2	1.0	2.9	Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.5	4.3	-2.2	2.3
Durable Goods	5.5	5.4	5.3	1.9	3.8	Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Non-Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0	2.0	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	13.4	13.5	12.9	-0.7	3.9
SERVICE PROVIDING	224.2	222.7	217.2	0.7	3.2	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	56.2	55.8	53.7	0.7	4.7	State Government	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0
Wholesale Trade	9.3	9.2	8.4	1.1	10.7	Local Government	7.0	7.0	6.5	0.0	7.7
Merchant Whlsrns., Durable	5.7	5.6	5.1	1.8	11.8	Local Education	3.5	3.6	3.4	-2.8	2.9
Retail Trade	32.1	31.8	31.3	0.9	2.6	NATRONA COUNTY					
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.7	4.7	4.4	0.0	6.8	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.6	40.4	39.7	0.5	2.3
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0	TOTAL PRIVATE	34.6	34.6	33.7	0.0	2.7
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6	GOODS PRODUCING	8.8	8.9	8.7	-1.1	1.1
Gasoline Stations	3.9	3.9	4.0	0.0	-2.5	Natural Resources & Mining	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.0	-4.7
General Merchandise Stores	6.7	6.7	6.6	0.0	1.5	Construction	2.7	2.8	2.5	-3.6	8.0
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3	Manufacturing	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	14.8	14.8	14.0	0.0	5.7	SERVICE PROVIDING	31.8	31.5	31.0	1.0	2.6
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.2	9.1	9.0	1.1	2.2
Transportation & Warehousing	12.3	12.3	11.7	0.0	5.1	Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
Truck Transportation	4.5	4.4	4.2	2.3	7.1	Retail Trade	5.4	5.3	5.3	1.9	1.9
Information	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.0	-4.7	Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	11.2	11.3	11.1	-0.9	0.9	Information	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
Finance & Insurance	6.9	7.0	6.9	-1.4	0.0	Financial Activities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4	Professional & Business Services	3.0	3.1	2.9	-3.2	3.4
Professional & Business Services	17.9	17.9	16.8	0.0	6.5	Educational & Health Services	5.0	5.0	4.8	0.0	4.2
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	9.6	9.5	9.2	1.1	4.3	Leisure & Hospitality	4.0	3.9	3.7	2.6	8.1
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.8	2.7	2.6	3.7	7.7	Other Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	6.0	5.8	6.0	3.4	0.0
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.4	7.5	6.7	-1.3	10.4	Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	23.7	23.6	22.9	0.4	3.5	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Educational Services	2.2	2.5	2.5	-12.0	-12.0	Local Government	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.4	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	21.5	21.1	20.4	1.9	5.4	Local Education	3.3	3.0	3.2	10.0	3.1
Ambulatory Health Care	8.1	7.9	7.7	2.5	5.2						
Offices of Physicians	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	6.7						
Hospitals	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4						
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.2	2.2						
Social Assistance	5.8	5.7	5.3	1.8	9.4						
Leisure & Hospitality	31.3	30.4	30.3	3.0	3.3						
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0						
Accommodation & Food Services	28.9	28.1	27.9	2.8	3.6						
Accommodation	10.1	9.5	10.1	6.3	0.0						
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	18.8	18.6	17.8	1.1	5.6						
Other Services	11.6	11.7	10.8	-0.9	7.4						
Repair & Maintenance	4.0	4.2	3.7	-4.8	8.1						
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	68.2	67.9	67.3	0.4	1.3						
Federal Government	6.9	6.8	6.9	1.5	0.0						
State Government	15.6	15.7	15.7	-0.6	-0.6						
State Govt. Education	6.6	6.7	6.6	-1.5	0.0						
Local Government	45.7	45.4	44.7	0.7	2.2						
Local Govt. Education	24.0	24.1	23.6	-0.4	1.7						
Hospitals	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6						

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

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Dec07	Nov07	Dec06	Nov07	Dec06
				Dec07	Dec07
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.0	28.0	27.6	0.0	1.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.8	23.8	23.5	0.0	1.3
GOODS PRODUCING	11.8	11.8	11.7	0.0	0.9
Natural Resources & Mining	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6
Construction	3.3	3.4	3.4	-2.9	-2.9
Manufacturing	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.2	16.2	15.9	0.0	1.9
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.4	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Other Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.2	25.3	25.3	-0.4	-0.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.8	21.0	21.0	-1.0	-1.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.5	8.7	9.1	-2.3	-6.6
Natural Resources & Mining	5.4	5.4	5.9	0.0	-8.5
Construction	1.8	2.0	1.9	-10.0	-5.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.7	16.6	16.2	0.6	3.1
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.2	0.0	3.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Professional & Bus. Services	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Other Services	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	17.4	16.0	17.2	8.7	1.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.2	13.9	15.0	9.4	1.3
GOODS PRODUCING	2.5	2.6	2.5	-3.8	0.0
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.4	2.5	2.3	-4.0	4.3
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	-50.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.9	13.4	14.7	11.2	1.4
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-33.3
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.0	4.7	5.9	27.7	1.7
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.8	0.0

Federal Funding Cuts Lead to Discontinuation of MSA Employment Statistics

Effective with the release of January 2008 data on March 11, 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will discontinue publication of all nonfarm employment series for 65 small metropolitan areas. In Wyoming, this funding cut affects the Casper metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and Natrona County. These cutbacks are due to a reduction in BLS funding from the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act enacted on December 26, 2007. For more details, see <http://www.bls.gov/sae/msareductions.htm>.

State Unemployment Rates December 2007 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.5
Michigan	7.4
Alaska	6.7
Mississippi	6.4
South Carolina	6.4
California	5.9
District of Columbia	5.8
Ohio	5.8
Arkansas	5.7
Nevada	5.7
Kentucky	5.4
Oregon	5.4
Illinois	5.3
Missouri	5.2
Rhode Island	5.2
Maine	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
Minnesota	4.9
United States	4.8
Washington	4.8
New York	4.7
North Carolina	4.7
Georgia	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Connecticut	4.5
Arizona	4.4
Florida	4.4
Indiana	4.4
West Virginia	4.4
Colorado	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Pennsylvania	4.3
Texas	4.3
Iowa	4.2
Massachusetts	4.1
New Jersey	4.1
Kansas	4.0
Alabama	3.8
Louisiana	3.8
Montana	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Delaware	3.4
Maryland	3.4
New Hampshire	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Wyoming	3.3
North Dakota	3.2
New Mexico	3.1
Idaho	3.0
South Dakota	3.0
Nebraska	2.9
Utah	2.9
Hawaii	2.8

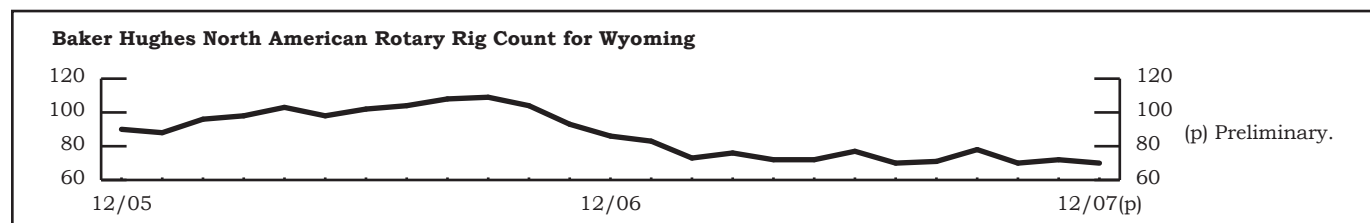
Economic Indicators

by: *Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist*

The Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming decreased from 86 in December 2006 to 70 in December 2007, an 18.6% decline.

	Dec. 2007 (p)	Nov. 2007 (r)	Dec. 2006 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	288,222	289,186	285,835	-0.3	0.8
Unemployed	9,376	8,075	8,981	16.1	4.4
Employed	278,846	281,111	276,854	-0.8	0.7
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.3%/3.1%	2.8%/2.9%	3.1%/3.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.8%/5.0%	4.5%/4.7%	4.3%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,577,000	7,791,000	7,950,000	-2.7	-4.7
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.3%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	363,000	349,000	274,000	4.0	32.5
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,750,000	4,374,000	4,281,000	8.6	11.0
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,267.44	\$1,255.58	\$1,219.45	0.9	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	46.7	46.4	48.7	0.6	-4.1
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,018.25	\$993.14	\$969.68	2.5	5.0
Average Weekly Hours	46.2	46.3	46.0	-0.2	0.4
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$868.12	\$845.27	\$741.45	2.7	17.1
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	42.2	42.2	4.3	4.3
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$729.41	\$721.27	\$712.65	1.1	2.4
Average Weekly Hours	41.8	41.5	41.7	0.7	0.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	11,125	8,904	10,200	24.9	9.1
Benefits Paid	\$3,148,580	\$2,501,566	\$2,629,578	25.9	19.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$283.02	\$280.95	\$257.80	0.7	9.8
State Insured Covered Jobs	268,337	267,230	259,306	0.4	3.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	210.0	210.2	201.8	-0.1	4.1
Housing	206.9	206.6	197.4	0.2	4.8
Apparel	210.9	210.7	204.8	0.1	3.0
Transportation	118.3	121.2	118.6	-2.4	-0.3
Medical Care	190.0	190.7	175.4	-0.4	8.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)	357.7	357.0	340.1	0.2	5.2
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)	111.7	111.8	110.8	-0.1	0.8
Other Goods & Services	121.5	121.4	118.0	0.1	3.0
Other Goods & Services	337.6	336.4	326.7	0.4	3.3
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	178.6	179.4	165.6	-0.4	7.9
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	91	194	225	-53.1	-59.6
Valuation	\$21,075,000	\$35,256,000	\$32,902,000	-40.2	-35.9
Single Family Homes	77	169	128	-54.4	-39.8
Valuation	\$20,048,000	\$33,116,000	\$26,053,000	-39.5	-23.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	70	72	86	-2.8	-18.6

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Roy Azar, Economist

Big Horn and Niobrara counties had the highest unemployment rates (both 5.2%), followed by Platte County (5.0%).

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 2007 (p)	Nov 2007 (p)	Dec 2006 (b)	Dec 2007 (p)	Nov 2007 (p)	Dec 2006 (b)	Dec 2007 (p)	Nov 2007 (p)	Dec 2006 (b)	Dec 2007 (p)	Nov 2007 (p)	Dec 2006 (b)
NORTHWEST	42,276	42,153	43,154	40,424	40,610	41,364	1,852	1,543	1,790	4.4	3.7	4.1
Big Horn	4,584	4,553	5,410	4,346	4,359	5,181	238	194	229	5.2	4.3	4.2
Fremont	18,050	18,069	17,659	17,247	17,410	16,874	803	659	785	4.4	3.6	4.4
Hot Springs	2,341	2,340	2,305	2,248	2,266	2,222	93	74	83	4.0	3.2	3.6
Park	13,136	13,076	13,466	12,563	12,591	12,924	573	485	542	4.4	3.7	4.0
Washakie	4,165	4,115	4,314	4,020	3,984	4,163	145	131	151	3.5	3.2	3.5
NORTHEAST	52,192	52,505	50,956	50,779	51,257	49,636	1,413	1,248	1,320	2.7	2.4	2.6
Campbell	26,113	26,279	25,302	25,558	25,762	24,791	555	517	511	2.1	2.0	2.0
Crook	3,439	3,431	3,313	3,324	3,340	3,212	115	91	101	3.3	2.7	3.0
Johnson	3,799	3,844	3,730	3,651	3,716	3,612	148	128	118	3.9	3.3	3.2
Sheridan	15,690	15,778	15,553	15,210	15,370	15,068	480	408	485	3.1	2.6	3.1
Weston	3,151	3,173	3,058	3,036	3,069	2,953	115	104	105	3.6	3.3	3.4
SOUTHWEST	65,207	64,872	62,814	63,540	63,295	61,225	1,667	1,577	1,589	2.6	2.4	2.5
Lincoln	8,574	8,539	8,304	8,323	8,326	8,017	251	213	287	2.9	2.5	3.5
Sublette	6,979	7,039	5,639	6,869	6,948	5,547	110	91	92	1.6	1.3	1.6
Sweetwater	24,104	24,392	24,145	23,507	23,871	23,598	597	521	547	2.5	2.1	2.3
Teton	14,005	13,330	13,668	13,654	12,868	13,342	351	462	326	2.5	3.5	2.4
Uinta	11,545	11,572	11,058	11,187	11,282	10,721	358	290	337	3.1	2.5	3.0
SOUTHEAST	72,448	73,383	72,470	69,701	71,114	69,872	2,747	2,269	2,598	3.8	3.1	3.6
Albany	19,132	19,459	19,230	18,666	19,040	18,782	466	419	448	2.4	2.2	2.3
Goshen	6,039	6,048	6,008	5,819	5,861	5,815	220	187	193	3.6	3.1	3.2
Laramie	42,227	42,822	42,273	40,419	41,378	40,552	1,808	1,444	1,721	4.3	3.4	4.1
Niobrara	1,178	1,182	1,111	1,117	1,126	1,074	61	56	37	5.2	4.7	3.3
Platte	3,872	3,872	3,848	3,680	3,709	3,649	192	163	199	5.0	4.2	5.2
CENTRAL	56,097	56,276	56,444	54,400	54,836	54,758	1,697	1,440	1,686	3.0	2.6	3.0
Carbon	8,104	8,163	8,213	7,826	7,918	7,945	278	245	268	3.4	3.0	3.3
Converse	6,869	6,909	6,910	6,633	6,708	6,689	236	201	221	3.4	2.9	3.2
Natrona	41,124	41,204	41,321	39,941	40,210	40,124	1,183	994	1,197	2.9	2.4	2.9
STATEWIDE	288,222	289,186	285,835	278,846	281,111	276,854	9,376	8,075	8,981	3.3	2.8	3.1
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.1	2.9	3.0
U.S.....										4.8	4.5	4.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.0	4.7	4.4

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/07. Run Date 01/08.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

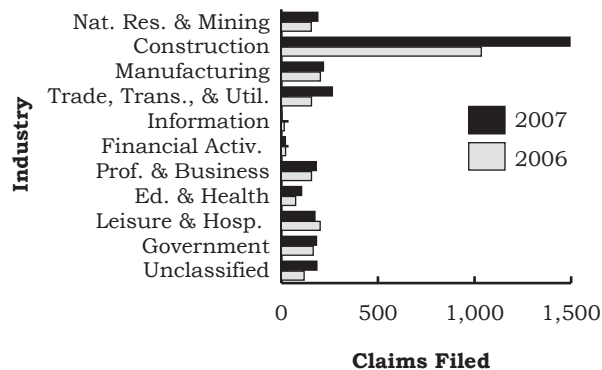
(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

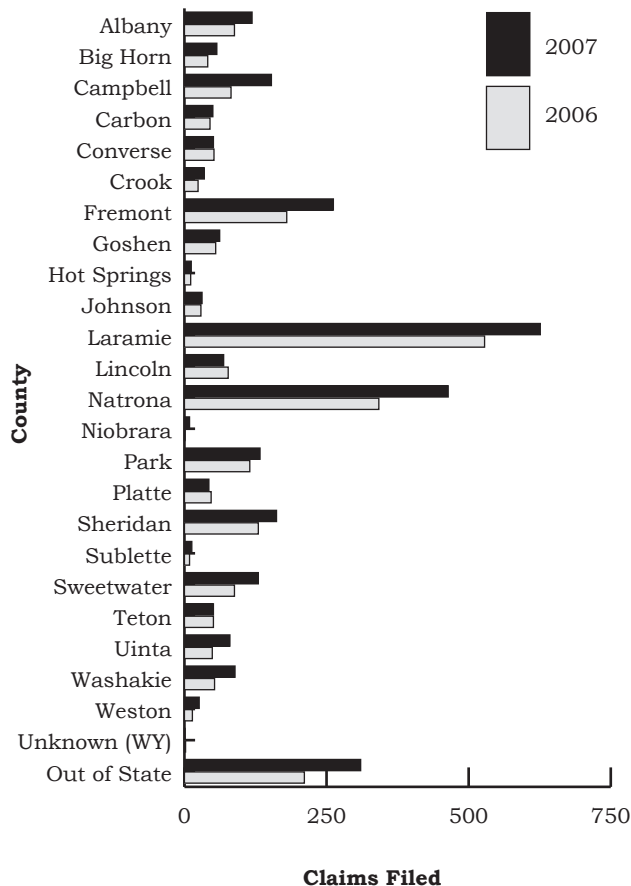
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Statewide initial claims increased 30.8% compared to December 2006. Almost two-thirds of the over-the-year increase occurred in construction.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2007



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2007



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	Dec07	Nov07	Dec06	Dec07	
	Dec07	Nov07	Dec06	Dec07	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	3,038	2,437	2,323	24.7	30.8
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,901	1,043	1,392	82.3	36.6
Natural Resources & Mining	189	161	155	17.4	21.9
Mining	178	138	141	-16.8	26.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	8	16	11	-50.0	-27.3
Construction	1,494	806	1,035	85.4	44.3
Manufacturing	218	76	202	186.8	7.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	771	927	648	-16.8	19.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	264	230	156	14.8	69.2
Wholesale Trade	40	24	14	66.7	185.7
Retail Trade	150	118	86	27.1	74.4
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	74	88	56	-15.9	32.1
Information	3	12	15	-75.0	-80.0
Financial Activities	21	29	22	-27.6	-4.5
Professional & Business Serv.	181	219	156	-17.4	16.0
Educational & Health Services	105	85	74	23.5	41.9
Leisure & Hospitality	174	322	201	-46.0	-13.4
Other Services	23	30	24	-23.3	-4.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	182	297	165	-38.7	10.3
Federal Government	108	175	99	-38.3	9.1
State Government	16	27	12	-40.7	33.3
Local Government	58	95	54	-38.9	7.4
Local Education	10	11	12	-9.1	-16.7
UNCLASSIFIED	184	170	118	8.2	55.9
LARAMIE COUNTY	624	374	526	66.8	18.6
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	431	189	386	128.0	11.7
Construction	363	171	296	112.3	22.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	144	141	113	2.1	27.4
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	55	58	41	-5.2	34.1
Financial Activities	3	6	2	-50.0	50.0
Professional & Business Serv.	45	36	35	25.0	28.6
Educational & Health Services	17	24	4	-29.2	325.0
Leisure & Hospitality	18	13	22	38.5	-18.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	25	28	12	-10.7	108.3
UNCLASSIFIED	24	16	15	50.0	60.0
NATRONA COUNTY	463	258	339	79.5	36.6
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	337	118	243	185.6	38.7
Construction	277	99	193	179.8	43.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	103	102	83	1.0	24.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	34	34	21	0.0	61.9
Financial Activities	3	10	2	-70.0	50.0
Professional & Business Serv.	28	26	21	7.7	33.3
Educational & Health Services	10	10	6	0.0	66.7
Leisure & Hospitality	24	14	24	71.4	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	11	27	11	-59.3	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	11	2	9.1	500.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

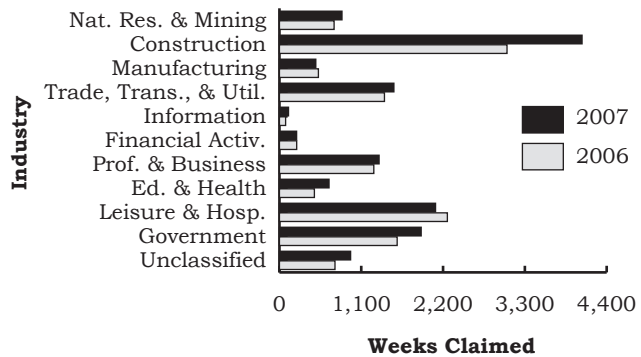
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Continued claims were 14.9% greater than at this time last year. As with initial claims, more than half of the increase was due to claims activity in construction.

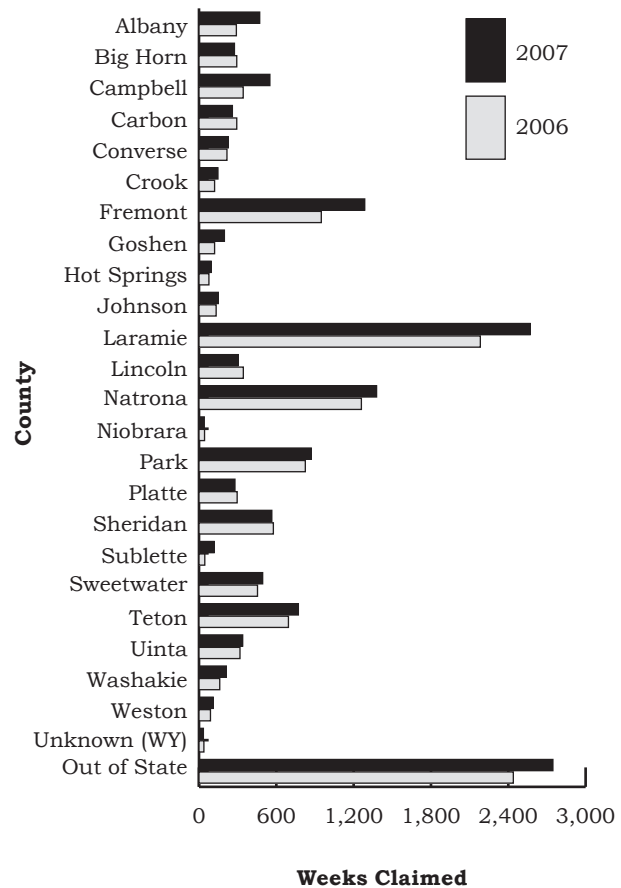
Continued Claims

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change Claims Filed		Dec07	Dec06
	Dec07	Nov07	Dec07	Dec06		
	Dec07	Nov07	Dec07	Dec06		
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	14,485	11,139	12,605	30.0	14.9	
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	4,517	3,336	3,820	35.4	18.2	
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5,399	3,180	4,319	69.8	25.0	
Natural Resources & Mining	841	851	735	-1.2	14.4	
Mining	722	752	605	-4.0	19.3	
Oil & Gas Extraction	50	57	62	-12.3	-19.4	
Construction	4,069	1,977	3,060	105.8	33.0	
Manufacturing	489	352	524	38.9	-6.7	
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	6,223	5,825	5,956	6.8	4.5	
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,539	1,349	1,412	14.1	9.0	
Wholesale Trade	181	209	197	-13.4	-8.1	
Retail Trade	883	759	845	16.3	4.5	
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	475	381	370	24.7	28.4	
Information	122	130	83	-6.2	47.0	
Financial Activities	231	222	232	4.1	-0.4	
Professional & Business Serv.	1,340	946	1,269	41.6	5.6	
Educational & Health Services	667	618	470	7.9	41.9	
Leisure & Hospitality	2,099	2,321	2,258	-9.6	-7.0	
Other Services	225	239	232	-5.9	-3.0	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,906	1,467	1,583	29.9	20.4	
Federal Government	1,036	711	869	45.7	19.2	
State Government	236	232	185	1.7	27.6	
Local Government	634	524	529	21.0	19.8	
Local Education	118	129	101	-8.5	16.8	
UNCLASSIFIED	957	667	747	43.5	28.1	
LARAMIE COUNTY						
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,566	1,679	2,182	52.8	17.6	
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	828	509	687	62.7	20.5	
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,092	392	994	178.6	9.9	
Construction	950	312	791	204.5	20.1	
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,130	981	953	15.2	18.6	
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	392	307	362	27.7	8.3	
Financial Activities	70	83	72	-15.7	-2.8	
Professional & Business Serv.	284	210	264	35.2	7.6	
Educational & Health Services	210	208	107	1.0	96.3	
Leisure & Hospitality	126	123	94	2.4	34.0	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	236	219	166	7.8	42.2	
UNCLASSIFIED	108	87	69	24.1	56.5	
NATRONA COUNTY						
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,380	1,016	1,260	35.8	9.5	
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	452	315	392	43.5	15.3	
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	603	374	468	61.2	28.8	
Construction	467	251	323	86.1	44.6	
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	602	527	643	14.2	-6.4	
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	203	188	219	8.0	-7.3	
Financial Activities	47	35	22	34.3	113.6	
Professional & Business Serv.	168	140	169	20.0	-0.6	
Educational & Health Services	90	77	79	16.9	13.9	
Leisure & Hospitality	58	54	85	7.4	-31.8	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	125	87	104	43.7	20.2	
UNCLASSIFIED	50	28	45	78.6	11.1	

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2007



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2007



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

**Official Business
Penalty for Private
Use \$300
Return Service
Requested**