

# TRENDS

## Excerpt from 2008 Wyoming Job Vacancy Survey

by: Sara Saulcy, Senior Economist

*This article examines selected results of a job vacancy study of Wyoming health care firms conducted by Research & Planning (R&P) in 2007 and 2008. The results showed 230 openings in ambulatory health care services, 423 in hospitals, and 107 in nursing & residential care facilities. The highest vacancy rate for registered nurses was in hospitals. Nursing & residential care vacancies were unfilled the longest of any health care subsector. By quantifying the characteristics of demand for labor, stakeholders could improve their recruitment and retention efforts.*

The demand for nurses in Wyoming is expected to increase as more nurses reach traditional retirement age (Saulcy, 2008). To evaluate the nursing situation in the state, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission contracted with R&P during 2007 to provide a study of vacancies, recruitment, and retention among health care firms (see all reports online, including the one from which this article was excerpted, at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nursing.htm>). This article focuses on job vacancies in health care, with special attention paid to openings for nurses. The data represent initial job

openings rather than final hiring terms.

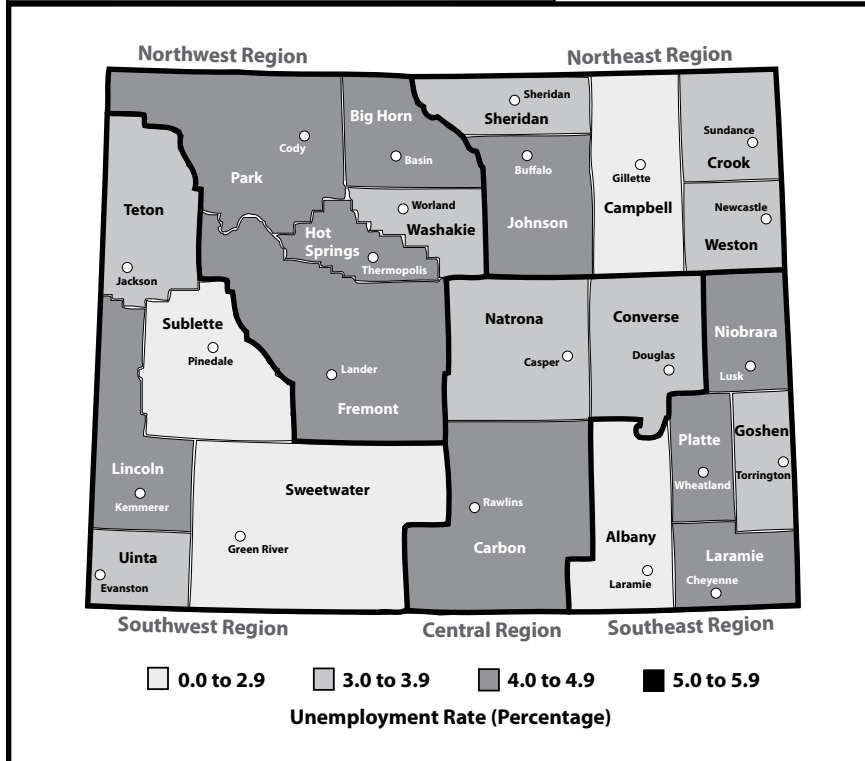
At the time the study was conducted, Wyoming was in a period of substantial employment growth driven by energy expansion. In 2000, total employment in the state was 239,300 (see Table 1, page 3). By 2007, employment had risen to 288,100, an increase of 20.4%. Of the 48,800 jobs added in Wyoming, 11,000 were in natural resources & mining. Employment in health care & social assistance rose from 16,400 in 2000

(Text continued on page 3)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The current national recession and economic crisis have caused considerable concern with regard to Wyoming's economy. Unemployment insurance claims are rising and state revenues are trending lower. . . . *page 10*
- From November to December 2008, Wyoming lost 1,500 jobs. The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to increase by approximately 1,100 jobs from November to December. Job losses in the construction sector were somewhat greater than average for December. . . . *page 16*

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, December 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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**NEW ONLINE**

Growing and Declining Industries in Wyoming  
[http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/G\\_DInd/G\\_D\\_Industries.htm](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/G_DInd/G_D_Industries.htm)



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(Text continued from page 1)

to 20,900, a net gain of 4,500 jobs (27.4%). Within the industry, ambulatory health care services increased the most, from 5,900 to 7,800 (32.2%). Nursing & residential care facilities added 600 jobs (15.4%), while employment in hospitals increased by 200 (7.1%). Much of the growth occurred in firms that serve older populations (Cowan, 2008).

### Collecting Data from Different Sources

R&P collected data between January 2007 and early 2008. Data were acquired through two sources: questionnaires and administrative data publicly available on the Internet. The questionnaires were designed to obtain information not available through other statistical or administrative sources. The Internet was used to collect vacancies in hospitals because human resources offices advertise most, if not all, hospital vacancies on their websites. This approach removed the burden of questionnaire response from employers while collecting detailed vacancy information.

Using questionnaires is a statistical approach to acquiring information. As such, the responses to various questions tend to be more uniform. For example, the questionnaire largely standardized the method by which occupation titles for vacancies were reported.

In addition, data collected from primary sources like questionnaires often can be clarified by following up with respondents. Conversely, data collected from administrative sources, such as vacancies posted on the Internet, are less uniform in content, particularly

**Table 1: Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (in Thousands), 2000-2007**

| Industry  | 2000         | 2007         | Change      |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|   |              |              | n           | %            |
| <b>Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment</b> | <b>239.3</b> | <b>288.1</b> | <b>48.8</b> | <b>20.4%</b> |
| <b>Total Private</b>                                    | <b>178.6</b> | <b>221.2</b> | <b>42.6</b> | <b>23.9%</b> |
| <b>Goods Producing</b>                                  | <b>45.3</b>  | <b>63.8</b>  | <b>18.5</b> | <b>40.8%</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                              | 16.3         | 27.3         | 11.0        | 67.5%        |
| Construction  | 18.5         | 26.3         | 7.8         | 42.2%        |
| Manufacturing   | 10.4         | 10.2         | -0.2        | -1.9%        |
| <b>Service Providing</b>                                | <b>194.1</b> | <b>224.4</b> | <b>30.3</b> | <b>15.6%</b> |
| Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities         | 48.1         | 55.2         | 7.1         | 14.8%        |
| Information   | 4.0          | 4.0          | 0.0         | 0.0%         |
| Financial Activities                                    | 9.2          | 11.4         | 2.2         | 23.9%        |
| Professional & Business Services                        | 14.7         | 18.4         | 3.7         | 25.2%        |
| Educational & Health Services                           | 18.2         | 23.2         | 5.0         | 27.5%        |
| Educational Services                                    | 1.9          | 2.3          | 0.4         | 21.1%        |
| Health Care & Social Assistance                         | 16.4         | 20.9         | 4.5         | 27.4%        |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services                         | 5.9          | 7.8          | 1.9         | 32.2%        |
| Hospitals   | 2.8          | 3.0          | 0.2         | 7.1%         |
| Nursing & Residential Care Facilities                   | 3.9          | 4.5          | 0.6         | 15.4%        |
| Social Assistance                                       | 3.8          | 5.6          | 1.8         | 47.4%        |
| Leisure & Hospitality                                   | 30.0         | 33.5         | 3.5         | 11.7%        |
| Other Services  | 9.1          | 11.7         | 2.6         | 28.6%        |
| <b>Government</b>                                       | <b>60.8</b>  | <b>67.0</b>  | <b>6.2</b>  | <b>10.2%</b> |
| Federal Government                                      | 7.5          | 7.3          | -0.2        | -2.7%        |
| State Government  | 13.7         | 15.5         | 1.8         | 13.1%        |
| Local Government  | 39.6         | 44.2         | 4.6         | 11.6%        |
| Education   | 21.6         | 22.4         | 0.8         | 3.7%         |
| Hospitals   | 5.2          | 6.2          | 1.0         | 19.2%        |

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning. (n.d.). *Wyoming nonagricultural wage and salary employment*. Current Employment Statistics. Retrieved March 20, 2008, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/CES/naanav9002.htm>

when the information is collected from several entities (in this case, hospitals). Also, because administrative data serve nonstatistical purposes, researchers must accept the information as is.

Data from two different sources used for different purposes cannot automatically be analyzed together. This study first required standardizing the reported vacant occupations by assigning a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code to each occupation, whether the information was collected from a questionnaire or from the Internet. SOC classifies occupations according to broad sets of knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs). This approach simplifies both data collection and analysis by reducing occupations to common sets of KSAs. It also makes data easier to understand by collapsing large numbers of otherwise distinct occupations into general groups. For this study, standardization was especially important for vacancy information obtained from the Internet. Vacancies reported on the Internet tend to include both common KSAs and KSAs unique to particular positions. With the shared occupational characteristics as the focus, SOC codes were used to evaluate the need for various sets of KSAs. For example, a hospital may publicize a variety of titles for vacant registered nurse (RN) positions such as telemetry nurse, labor and delivery nurse, and operating room nurse. Alternatively, an ambulatory health care firm may report titles such as family nurse practitioner and certified nurse anesthetist. However, when occupations are classified by SOC, all these are considered RNs. The assignment of SOC code based on common KSAs allows evaluation of data that initially seem dissimilar. For more detail about the methodology, see the full report at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nurse\\_vacancies\\_retention.pdf](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nurse_vacancies_retention.pdf).

## Job Vacancies by Industry Subsector

Survey results showed 230 openings in ambulatory health care services, 423 in hospitals, and 107 in nursing & residential care facilities (see Table 2, page 5). The average number of openings per firm was 6.6 in ambulatory care, 20.1 in hospitals, and 2.9 in nursing & residential care. The most common ambulatory care and hospital vacancy was for RNs. For nursing & residential care, the most common vacancy was for certified nursing assistants (CNAs).

In addition to estimating the average number of openings, vacancy rates were also calculated. Rates by occupation and industry were calculated as a percentage for nursing occupations. The calculation was total estimated vacancies by occupation or industry divided by the sum of estimated vacancies and estimated occupational employment by industry from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey (see <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm> for more information about OES). The highest vacancy rate was for hospitals (12.4%), followed by ambulatory care (2.9%) and nursing & residential care (2.3%). It is possible that the lower vacancy rate in nursing & residential care was at least partly a result of administrative regulations requiring a minimum staff-to-patient ratio (Leonard, 2008a).

Across the three health care industries, the highest advertised average hourly wage for open positions was in hospitals (\$23.35), while the lowest was in nursing & residential care (\$12.27). By comparison, the OES (2008) program estimated as of March 2008 that the Wyoming average hourly wage was \$19.97 in hospitals and \$14.01 in nursing & residential care. According to

**Table 2: Summary of Estimated Job Vacancy Characteristics in Wyoming Health Care Industries<sup>a</sup>, Weighted**

| Characteristics   | Ambulatory Care   | Hospitals         | Nursing & Residential Care   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Total Number of Openings  | 230               | 423               | 107                          |
| Percentage Full-Time <sup>b</sup>   | 75.3%             | 67.8%             | 77.6%                        |
| Percentage Part-Time  | 24.6%             | 16.5%             | 22.2%                        |
| Percentage Other Hours <sup>c</sup>   | NA                | 15.1%             | NA                           |
| Average Number of Openings Per Firm With Vacancies                          | 6.6               | 20.1              | 2.9                          |
| Average Hourly Wage <sup>d</sup>  | \$16.14           | \$23.35           | \$12.27                      |
| Average Number of Weeks Vacant  | 26.1              | NA                | 16.0                         |
| Percentage of Positions Offering One or More Benefits                       | 77.0%             | 79.2%             | 93.5%                        |
| Most Common Vacant Occupation   | Registered Nurses | Registered Nurses | Certified Nursing Assistants |
| Industry Vacancy Rate   | 2.9%              | 12.4%             | 2.3%                         |
| Percentage Requiring More Than High School Education                        | 70.4%             | 68.8%             | 57.0%                        |
| Percentage Requiring Licensure, Certification, or Professional Registration | 61.7%             | 68.1%             | 70.1%                        |
| Percentage Requiring One or More Years of Experience                        | 45.2%             | 23.6%             | 12.1%                        |

NA: Not available or not applicable.

<sup>a</sup>Data collected for ambulatory health care services in summer 2007, nursing & residential care facilities in fall 2007, and hospitals in early 2008.

<sup>b</sup>Nursing & residential care and ambulatory care full- and part-time status assumes 32 hours per week is full-time; fewer than 32 hours is considered part-time. Hospital full- and part-time status designated by hospitals in job postings online. Full-time, part-time, and other hours may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

<sup>c</sup>Includes on-call, per diem, full-time temporary, full- or part-time status unknown, and full- or part-time temporary.

<sup>d</sup>Average hourly wage for hospitals for vacancies with a known starting wage.

OES data (2008), Wyoming's mean hourly wage was \$26.03 per hour for RNs and \$17.90 per hour for licensed practical nurses (LPNs). For CNAs, the mean hourly wage was \$11.66, \$14.37 per hour less than for RNs and \$6.24 per hour less than for LPNs. A report by Leonard and Szuch (2008) showed that in fourth quarter 2007, CNAs earned lower wages than RNs and LPNs in all three health care subsectors. The report also showed that the highest concentration of CNAs was in nursing & residential care facilities. The combination of a higher number of CNA openings and lower wages most likely yielded the lower average wage in nursing & residential care.

### Nurse Vacancy Characteristics

Table 3 (see page 6) shows the vacancy

characteristics of nursing occupations. Most RN vacancies (143) were in hospitals, followed by ambulatory health care services (27) and nursing & residential care facilities (14). Research by Leonard (2008b) found that 118 to 169 nurses became registered in Wyoming between 2001 and 2003. Provided that this trend held through 2007, even if the maximum of 169 individuals gained employment in the state for the estimated vacancies in this study, the number of graduates would be insufficient to cover the 184 total RN vacancies in health care.

CNA vacancies in nursing & residential care were open for the greatest length of time (22.7 weeks on average), followed by CNAs in ambulatory care (15.4). Factors that Fitzpatrick (2002) suggested may contribute to the problem were working conditions and comparatively low wages. Studies by

**Table 3: Summary of Estimated Job Vacancy Characteristics of Nursing Staff in Wyoming Health Care Industries<sup>a</sup>, Weighted**

| Characteristics                                      | Industry                   | Registered Nurses | Licensed Practical Nurses | Certified Nursing Assistants |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of Vacancies                                  | Ambulatory Care            | 27                | 0                         | 33                           |
|  | Hospitals                  | 143               | 8                         | 35                           |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | 14                | 6                         | 51                           |
| Average Weeks Vacant                                 | Ambulatory Care            | 6.8               | NA                        | 15.4                         |
|  | Hospitals                  | 16.6              | 18.7                      | 12.3                         |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | 11.2              | 8.3                       | 22.7                         |
| Average Hourly Wage                                  | Ambulatory Care            | \$19.25           | NA                        | \$9.93                       |
|  | Hospitals                  | NA                | NA                        | NA                           |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | \$21.73           | \$17.80                   | \$10.56                      |
| Percentage Full-Time <sup>b</sup>                    | Ambulatory Care            | 74.1%             | NA                        | 36.1%                        |
|  | Hospitals                  | 74.8%             | 50.0%                     | 74.3%                        |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | 100.0%            | 100.0%                    | 84.4%                        |
| Percentage Part-Time                                 | Ambulatory Care            | 25.9%             | NA                        | 66.1%                        |
|  | Hospitals                  | 10.5%             | 37.5%                     | 8.6%                         |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | NA                | NA                        | 15.7%                        |
| Percentage Other Hours <sup>c</sup>                  | Ambulatory Care            | NA                | NA                        | NA                           |
|  | Hospitals                  | 14.7%             | 12.5%                     | 17.1%                        |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | NA                | NA                        | NA                           |
| Percentage Offering One or More Benefits             | Ambulatory Care            | 100.0%            | NA                        | 12.0%                        |
|  | Hospitals                  | 79.0%             | 75.0%                     | 85.7%                        |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | 100.0%            | 100.0%                    | 94.2%                        |
| Percentage Requiring One or More Years of Experience | Ambulatory Care            | 81.5%             | NA                        | 63.1%                        |
|  | Hospitals                  | 29.4%             | 0.0%                      | ND                           |
|  | Nursing & Residential Care | 43.0%             | ND                        | 7.9%                         |

NA: Not available or not applicable.

ND: Not disclosable due to confidentiality of information.

<sup>a</sup>Data collected for ambulatory health care services in summer 2007, nursing & residential care facilities in fall 2007, and hospitals in early 2008.

<sup>b</sup>Nursing & residential care and ambulatory care full- and part-time status assumes 32 hours per week is full-time; fewer than 32 hours is considered part-time. Hospital full- and part-time status designated by hospitals in job postings online. Full-time, part-time, and other hours may not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

<sup>c</sup>Includes on-call, per diem, full-time temporary, full- or part-time status unknown, and full- or part-time temporary.

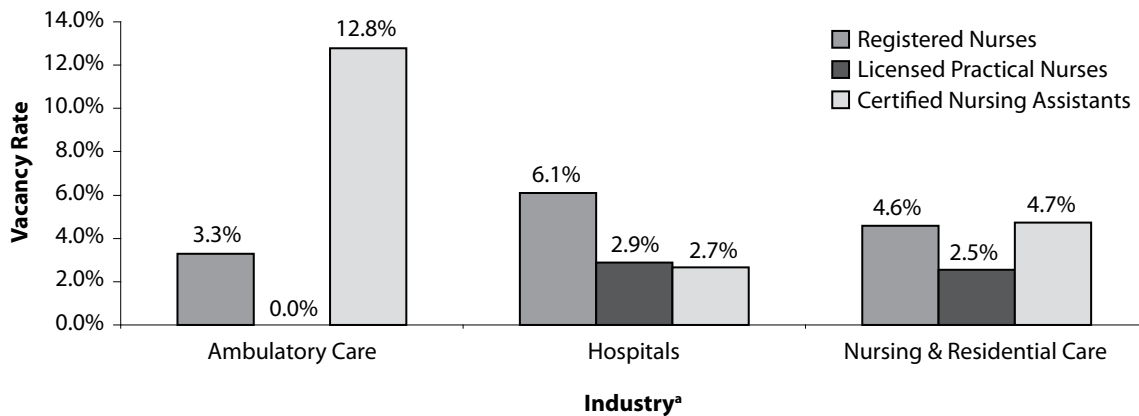
Ong, Rickles, Matthias, and Benjamin and by Riemer (as cited in Bullock & Waugh, 2004) indicated that CNAs “whose highest degree is a high school diploma are among the ranks of the working poor, often drawing on public assistance

intermittently” (p. 769).

In Wyoming, recruiting sufficient CNAs may be further complicated by escalating wages in other industries as a result of Wyoming’s economic expansion. Research by

Leonard (2007) found that from third quarter 2005 to third quarter 2006, the average quarterly wage for CNAs employed in health care or government rose by \$505. In contrast, CNAs working in industries other than health care experienced average quarterly wage growth of \$616. Wage growth for CNAs employed in natural resources more than quadrupled wage gains for other non-health care industries. In third quarter 2005, the 17 CNAs employed in natural resources & mining earned an average quarterly wage of \$6,296. By third quarter 2006 there were 35 CNAs employed in natural resources & mining earning an average quarterly wage of \$9,189, an increase of \$2,893.

By occupation, vacancy rates were highest for CNAs in ambulatory health care services, while the lowest rate was for LPNs in nursing & residential care facilities (see Figure, page 7). The low rate for LPNs may have been at least partly due to the fact that LPNs were employed in lower numbers than either RNs or CNAs. The highest vacancy rate for RNs was in hospitals (6.1%), which may have been the result of hospitals having to attract employees from a larger labor market (Harris, 2007, 2008).



<sup>a</sup>Obtained from a survey of ambulatory health care services in summer 2007 and nursing & residential care facilities in fall 2007. Hospital vacancy data were obtained from the Internet in November 2007.

Figure: Estimated Vacancy Rates for Wyoming Nursing Staff by Industry, Weighted

### Vacancy Characteristics of Major Occupational Groups

The majority of open positions were concentrated in two major occupational groups: healthcare practitioner & technical and healthcare support (see Table 4, page 8). These two groups include RNs, LPNs, and CNAs. Healthcare practitioner & technical occupations typically require higher levels of education or experience to be considered qualified for the position than do healthcare support occupations. By far the largest number of openings by SOC and industry were in healthcare practitioner & technical occupations for hospitals (255 vacancies). A significant number of office & administrative support occupations were also open in ambulatory care and hospitals (43 and 41, respectively).

### Summary

The ability of Wyoming’s health care delivery system to meet the needs of the

state’s aging population depends on substantial numbers of staff and professionals. Nurses are an especially important component of the health care delivery system. As the population ages, more health care services will likely be required. At the same time, nurses will be retiring or leaving the profession for other reasons. If nurses cannot be retained or new labor made available, the ratio of nurses to patients may decline, potentially affecting patient outcomes (Saulcy, 2008). Hospitals especially are having difficulty finding enough RNs, as demonstrated by the large number of vacant positions. Hospitals’ ability to attract and retain RNs is challenged by the fact that they typically draw from a larger labor market than do nursing & residential care facilities or ambulatory health care services.

The existing education system is unable to fully meet the demand for nurses. Job vacancies are just one component of understanding demand. Use of temporary or contract nurses to meet staffing needs,

**Table 4: Estimated Number of Vacancies and Percentage of Vacancies That Are for Full-Time Positions in Wyoming Health Care Industries<sup>a</sup> by Selected Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), Weighted**

| SOC Code and Title                           | Ambulatory Care |              | Hospitals  |              | Nursing & Residential Care |              |
|--|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
|  | n               | % Full-Time  | n          | % Full-Time  | n                          | % Full-Time  |
| 11 Management                                | –               | –            | 13         | 100.0%       | –                          | –            |
| 13 Business & Financial Operations           | –               | –            | 4          | 100.0%       | –                          | –            |
| 15 Computer & Mathematical Science           | –               | –            | ND         | ND           | –                          | –            |
| 21 Community & Social Services               | 30              | 100.0%       | 7          | 57.1%        | 14                         | 35.0%        |
| 29 Healthcare Practitioner & Technical       | 79              | 87.6%        | 255        | 70.6%        | 20                         | 100.0%       |
| 31 Healthcare Support                        | 77              | 50.1%        | 62         | 59.7%        | 54                         | 84.6%        |
| 35 Food Preparation & Serving Related        | –               | –            | 11         | 36.4%        | 8                          | 83.3%        |
| 37 Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | –               | –            | 20         | 50.0%        | 7                          | 50.0%        |
| 39 Personal Care & Service                   | –               | –            | 4          | ND           | ND                         | ND           |
| 41 Sales & Related                           | –               | –            | ND         | ND           | –                          | –            |
| 43 Office & Administrative Support           | 43              | 18.6%        | 41         | 68.3%        | –                          | –            |
| 49 Installation, Maintenance, & Repair       | –               | –            | 3          | 100.0%       | ND                         | ND           |
| 51 Production                                | –               | –            | –          | –            | ND                         | ND           |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>230</b>      | <b>75.3%</b> | <b>423</b> | <b>67.8%</b> | <b>107</b>                 | <b>77.6%</b> |

ND: Not disclosable due to confidentiality of information.

– Unknown.

<sup>a</sup>Data collected for ambulatory health care services in summer 2007, nursing & residential care facilities in fall 2007, and hospitals in early 2008.

as well as methods to recruit and retain permanent nursing staff, are discussed in the complete report, *Vacancies and Recruitment and Retention Strategies in Health Care*, available at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nurse\\_vacancies\\_retention.pdf](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nurse_vacancies_retention.pdf).

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## The Difference Between Industries and Occupations

**Industry:** A group of establishments that produce similar products or provide similar services.

**Occupation:** A set of activities or tasks that employees are paid to perform. Employees who perform essentially the same tasks are in the same occupation, whether or not they work in the same industry.

### Wyoming Employment and Wages for Selected Occupations Within the Health Care & Social Assistance Industry, September 2008

| Occupation                             | Estimated Employment | Average Annual Wages |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Registered Nurses                      | 4,250                | \$54,986             |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants | 3,080                | \$24,661             |
| Home Health Aides                      | 900                  | \$22,378             |
| Dental Assistants                      | 530                  | \$26,744             |
| Pharmacists                            | 480                  | \$95,110             |
| Medical Assistants                     | 410                  | \$24,507             |
| Family & General Practitioners         | 220                  | \$181,362            |

Source: Wyoming Occupational Employment and Wages, <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/EDSPub20083ECI/TOC000.htm>

# Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims: A Historical Context

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

*The current national recession and economic crisis have caused considerable concern with regard to Wyoming's economy. Unemployment insurance claims are rising and state revenues are trending lower. This article analyzes unemployment insurance claims in light of long-term historical data. Although claims are on the rise, they have yet to approach the level seen during the last slowdown in Wyoming's economy (2003) and are well below the claims activity seen during the bust years of the 1980s.*

Recent events have many people wondering how the national recession will affect Wyoming's economy. Articles regarding state finances (Miller, 2009) and mineral royalty and severance revenue (Bleizeffer, 2009) paint a gloomy picture of the state's economy. Before making assessments, current economic data must be viewed in a broader historical context. Research & Planning (R&P) typically focuses on unemployment rates (job loss and entrants) and the number of jobs (growth) as separate

pieces in R&P's monthly publication *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*. In contrast, unemployment insurance (UI) claims represent job losses alone. UI claims generally result in countercyclical spending and are a direct cost to employers. This article integrates claims and jobs data to compare current state data to recent history and to the boom-and-bust cycle of the 1970s and 1980s. Such comparisons allow for better interpretation of current circumstances in light of extreme economic events.

## Data and Methods

The data sets used in this research include the following:

- Data from Wyoming's UI claims database from 1997 to 2008.
- UI claims data from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA; 2008) from 1971 to 2008.
- Employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (n.d.) Current Employment Statistics program from 1971 to 2008.

Two additional statistics were calculated from the claims and employment data. The first, the UI benefit exhaustion rate, is the percentage of UI benefit recipients who exhausted their regular eligible benefits (Wen, 2008). Benefit exhaustion rates are calculated each year by R&P

## Concept Definitions and Context

| Concept                  | Units                                       | Context  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
|                          | Initial Claims                              | Persons = unemployment insurance claimants                     |
| Broad Measures of Supply | Continued Weeks Claimed                     | Persons may claim more than one week of unemployment insurance |
|                          | Benefit Exhaustees                          | Indicative of tight or loose labor markets                     |
| Broad Measure of Demand  | Jobs Worked (Current Employment Statistics) | Persons may work more than one job                             |

and posted to the Internet (Wen & Leonard, 2009). The second, the claims rate, was calculated as the ratio of unemployment claims per 1,000 jobs worked. Claims rates calculations provide a basis of comparison for the level of stress on the state's UI trust fund. To remove seasonal fluctuations, the claims and employment series were smoothed using a 12-month moving average. The moving average was calculated by adding the current month's values to the prior 11 months' values and dividing by 12. In contrast, the claims data published each month at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ui.htm> and in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (see page 22) provide precise counts of UI claims.

## Results

The Table shows the county-level UI exhaustion rates for 2007 and 2008. The exhaustion rate is the number of persons exhausting benefits divided by the number of persons receiving benefits. Two items of note appear in the Table. First, the number of persons receiving UI benefits increased 29.5% (13,064 to 16,916) from 2007 to 2008. Second, the statewide benefit exhaustion rate declined from 21.5% in 2007 to 20.4% in 2008. These two changes are indicative of economic events in 2008. Exhaustion rates might have declined in 2008 because of a large influx of new claimants in 2008,

**Table: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Recipients and Exhaustees by County, 2007 and 2008**

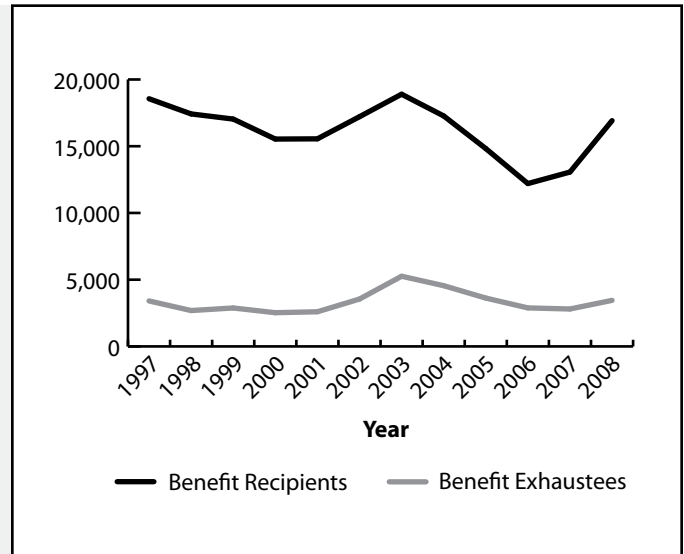
| County       | 2007               |                    |                 | 2008               |                    |                 | Change, 2007-2008  |                    |                 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|              | Benefit Recipients | Benefit Exhaustees | Exhaustion Rate | Benefit Recipients | Benefit Exhaustees | Exhaustion Rate | Benefit Recipients | Benefit Exhaustees | Exhaustion Rate |
| Albany       | 309                | 44                 | 14.2%           | 367                | 58                 | 15.8%           | 58                 | 14                 | 1.6%            |
| Big Horn     | 230                | 63                 | 27.4%           | 271                | 76                 | 28.0%           | 41                 | 13                 | 0.7%            |
| Campbell     | 885                | 129                | 14.6%           | 969                | 143                | 14.8%           | 84                 | 14                 | 0.2%            |
| Carbon       | 215                | 60                 | 27.9%           | 363                | 63                 | 17.4%           | 148                | 3                  | -10.6%          |
| Converse     | 105                | 24                 | 22.9%           | 139                | 35                 | 25.2%           | 34                 | 11                 | 2.3%            |
| Crook        | 108                | 12                 | 11.1%           | 104                | 14                 | 13.5%           | -4                 | 2                  | 2.4%            |
| Fremont      | 612                | 146                | 23.9%           | 856                | 181                | 21.1%           | 244                | 35                 | -2.7%           |
| Goshen       | 84                 | 21                 | 25.0%           | 132                | 29                 | 22.0%           | 48                 | 8                  | -3.0%           |
| Hot Springs  | 55                 | 19                 | 34.6%           | 53                 | 11                 | 20.8%           | -2                 | -8                 | -13.8%          |
| Johnson      | 141                | 28                 | 19.9%           | 136                | 26                 | 19.1%           | -5                 | -2                 | -0.7%           |
| Laramie      | 1,705              | 368                | 21.6%           | 1,977              | 418                | 21.1%           | 272                | 50                 | -0.4%           |
| Lincoln      | 246                | 51                 | 20.7%           | 524                | 110                | 21.0%           | 278                | 59                 | 0.3%            |
| Natrona      | 1,383              | 263                | 19.0%           | 1,679              | 326                | 19.4%           | 296                | 63                 | 0.4%            |
| Niobrara     | 10                 | 7                  | 70.0%           | 11                 | 4                  | 36.4%           | 1                  | -3                 | -33.6%          |
| Park         | 498                | 111                | 22.3%           | 573                | 151                | 26.4%           | 75                 | 40                 | 4.1%            |
| Platte       | 129                | 28                 | 21.7%           | 153                | 47                 | 30.7%           | 24                 | 19                 | 9.0%            |
| Sheridan     | 515                | 110                | 21.4%           | 664                | 104                | 15.7%           | 149                | -6                 | -5.7%           |
| Sublette     | 132                | 28                 | 21.2%           | 227                | 47                 | 20.7%           | 95                 | 19                 | -0.5%           |
| Sweetwater   | 493                | 85                 | 17.2%           | 733                | 138                | 18.8%           | 240                | 53                 | 1.6%            |
| Teton        | 898                | 160                | 17.8%           | 1,228              | 177                | 14.4%           | 330                | 17                 | -3.4%           |
| Uinta        | 210                | 59                 | 28.1%           | 358                | 79                 | 22.1%           | 148                | 20                 | -6.0%           |
| Washakie     | 202                | 42                 | 20.8%           | 205                | 43                 | 21.0%           | 3                  | 1                  | 0.2%            |
| Weston       | 62                 | 12                 | 19.4%           | 66                 | 14                 | 21.2%           | 4                  | 2                  | 1.9%            |
| Unknown      | 3,837              | 934                | 24.3%           | 5,128              | 1,156              | 22.5%           | 1,291              | 222                | -1.8%           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13,064</b>      | <b>2,804</b>       | <b>21.5%</b>    | <b>16,916</b>      | <b>3,450</b>       | <b>20.4%</b>    | <b>3,852</b>       | <b>646</b>         | <b>-1.1%</b>    |

particularly in the fourth quarter (October, November, and December). It appears that in fourth quarter 2008 the number of benefit recipients grew faster than the number of benefit exhaustees, artificially lowering the exhaustion rate for the year.

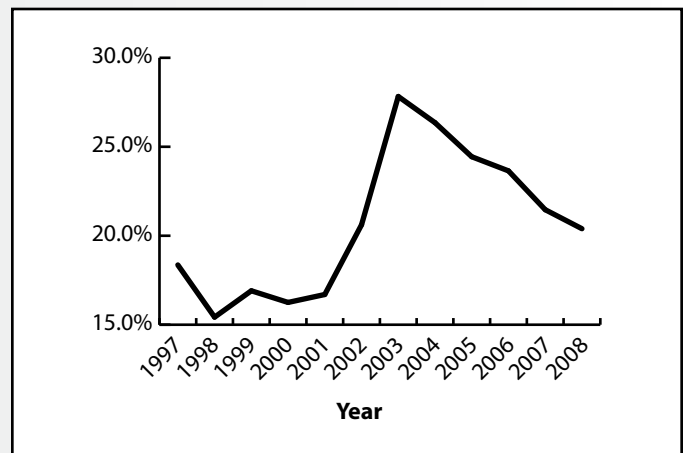
Figure 1 shows trend lines for persons receiving and persons exhausting benefits from 1997 to 2008. Exhaustion rates are important because they provide information about market trends. Increasing or high rates indicate that workers are having greater difficulty securing a new job. High rates also indicate a greater supply of available labor for businesses that may still be expanding. The peak in both numbers on the chart occurred in 2003 after the collapse of Enron and natural gas prices. Note that the peak values for recipients and exhaustees in 2008 (16,916 and 3,450, respectively), while greater than those in 2007 (13,604 recipients and 2,804 exhaustees), were still less than 2003 levels (18,896 recipients and 5,258 exhaustees). Figure 2 shows historical exhaustion rates for 1997 to 2008. Exhaustion rates peaked in 2003 at 27.8% and steadily declined through 2008 to 20.4%. Compared to the last 11 years, recipient and exhaustee counts as well as exhaustion rates were relatively low in 2008.

Figures 3 and 4 compare claims counts in 2008 to the prior 10 years of data for initial and continued claims, respectively. Each figure includes 2008 levels alongside averages for each month during the prior 10 years. The high and low levels provide context for evaluating the 2008 levels.

Figure 3 (see page 13) shows that during early 2008, initial claims trended below average. However, as the year progressed and the national economic conditions deteriorated, the number



**Figure 1: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients and Exhaustees, 1997-2008**



**Figure 2: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Exhaustion Rate, 1997-2008**

of initial claims increased rapidly, particularly in December. Figure 4 (see page 13) shows a similar trend for continued weeks claimed. Similar to Figure 3, continued claims began the year below the 10-year average, then rose above the 10-year high during fourth quarter 2008. One difference between Figure 4 and Figure 3 is that continued claims did not increase as rapidly as initial claims. This was partially due to eligibility rates among those filing an initial claim.

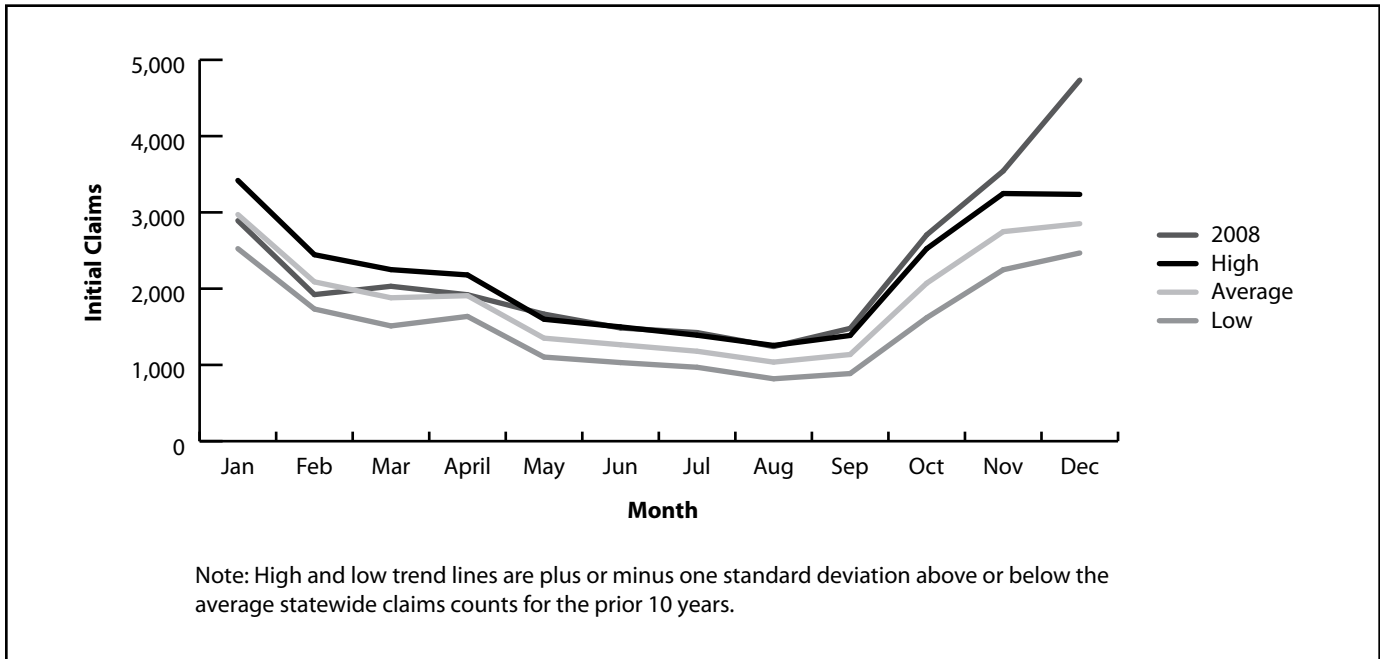


Figure 3: Wyoming Initial Claims Averages for 1998-2007 Compared to 2008

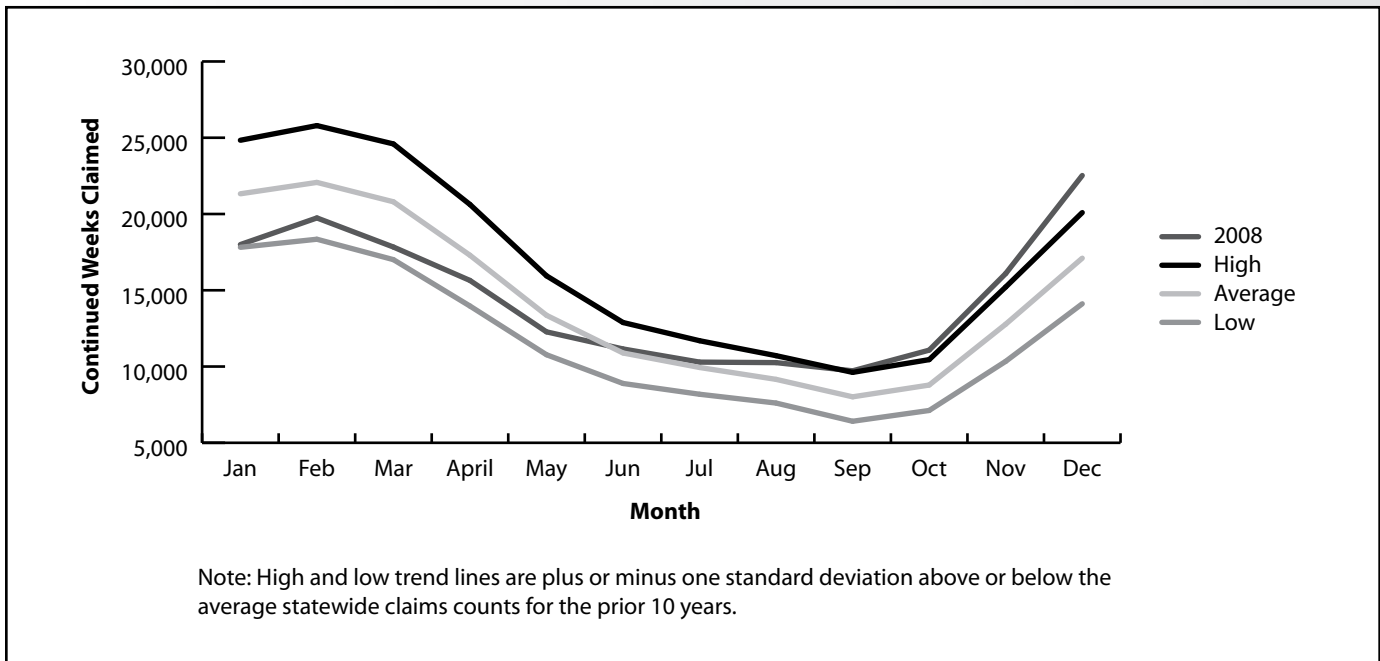
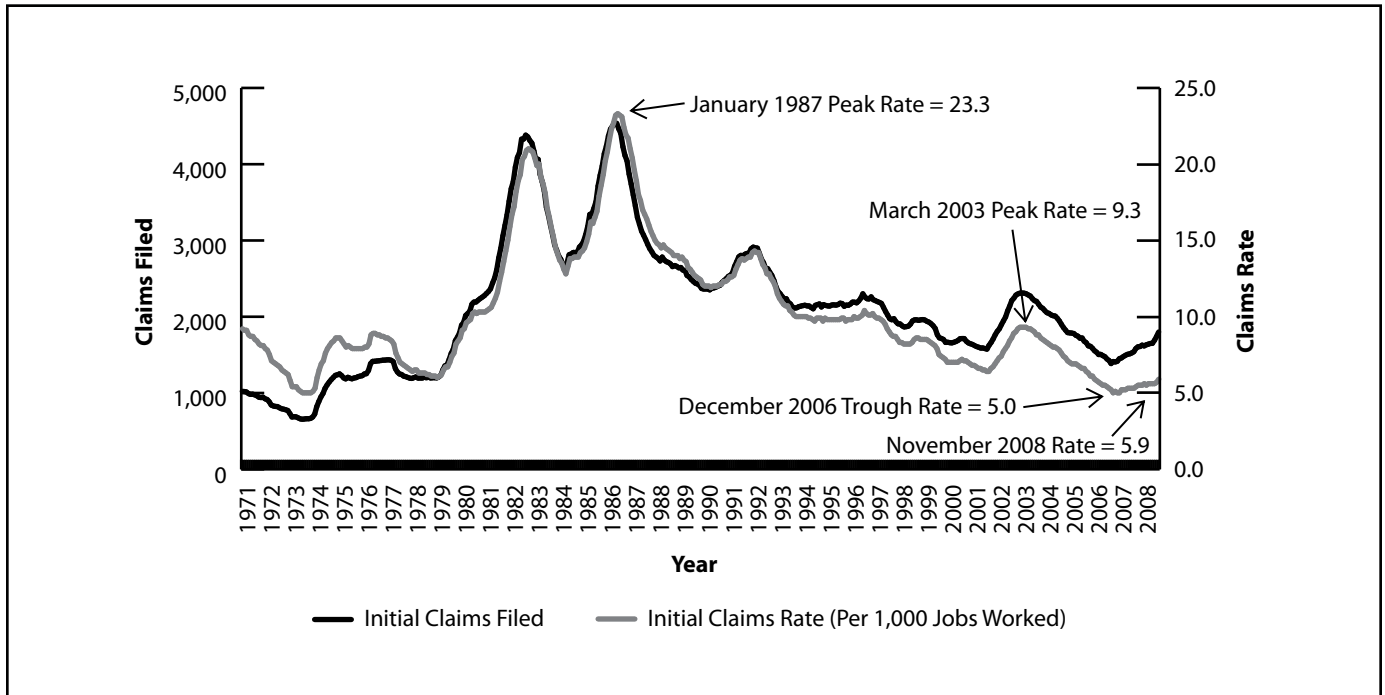


Figure 4: Wyoming Continued Weeks Claimed Averages for 1998-2007 Compared to 2008

Although almost anyone can file an initial claim for benefits, payments for continued claims are based on eligibility. Benefits eligibility is primarily determined by workers' wages. The maximum weekly

benefit amount is the lesser of \$415.00 or 4.0% of the worker's base period wages, prorated to a weekly amount, as of July 1, 2008 (see Wyoming Employment Security Law [2005] for details).



**Figure 5: Wyoming Historical Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims, 12-Month Moving Average, 1971-2008**

Figure 5 shows initial claims counts and rates from 1971 through 2008 (ETA, 2008). Note that although claims counts began increasing at the end of 2008, the 12-month moving average was still less than the level seen in 2003 and only a fraction of the levels seen during the bust period of the 1980s. The peak claims rate of 23.3 (per 1,000 jobs worked) occurred in January 1987. The most current rate was 5.9 in November 2008. Although the December value is expected to increase, it is not likely to approach the peak of 9.3 during the slowdown in March 2003. The claims rate is used to standardize the demands on the UI system during different years as the number of jobs worked changes depending upon seasonal work such as construction, in addition to general growth and contraction in the state's workforce.

Figure 6 (see page 15) shows continued claims data for 1971 through 2008. The peak was 222.9 (per 1,000 jobs worked) in August 1983 while the September 2003

peak was 71.1. The most recent rate was 38.7 in November 2008, compared to the recent low of 34.4 in March 2007.

## Conclusion

One measure of Wyoming's unemployment claims activity, the exhaustion rate, provides an important view of economic conditions. However, the timing of claims filings can skew the calculations. To place the claims data in a more accurate historical context, the claims rate was added and the historical range was broadened to include the early 1970s. This evaluation shows that while claims rates are increasing, and are expected to continue to do so, the stress on Wyoming's UI system has yet to approach the level seen in 2003. Analysis of historical claims rates along with claims counts can provide policy makers better information about UI system demands than the absolute values of claims counts.

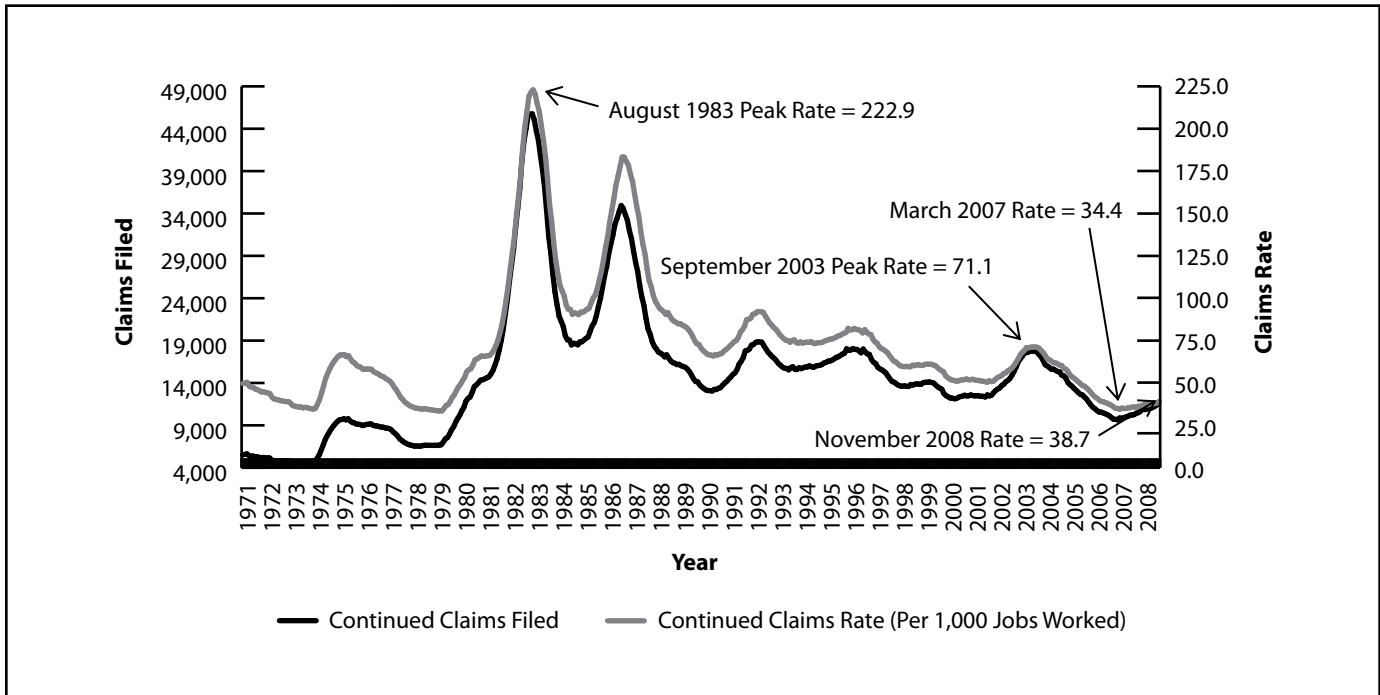


Figure 6: Wyoming Historical Continued Weeks Claimed Counts and Rates, 12-Month Moving Average, 1971-2008

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## Employer Seminars Continue in 2009

**R**unning a business can be a daunting task. Fortunately, there is help for employers. The Wyoming Department of Employment is sponsoring the 2009 Employer Seminars, coming to a town near you. The seminars provide information about workers' compensation, the state mine inspector's office, unemployment insurance, workplace safety, labor standards, and labor market information. Upcoming seminars are scheduled for Cody (April 22), Jackson (May 20), Evanston (June 25), and Sheridan (September 17). Register online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/employerseminars>.

## Wyoming Job Growth Slows in December 2008

*by: David Bullard, Senior Economist*

**W**yoming's over-the-year job growth rate slowed from 2.9% in November to 2.2% in December. The state's job growth rate has been steadily decreasing from its peak in June 2006 (5.6%). U.S. nonfarm employment has fallen by 2.8 million jobs (-2.0%) since December 2007. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 3.2% in November to 3.4% in December (not a statistically significant change), but remained well below the U.S. unemployment rate of 7.2%.

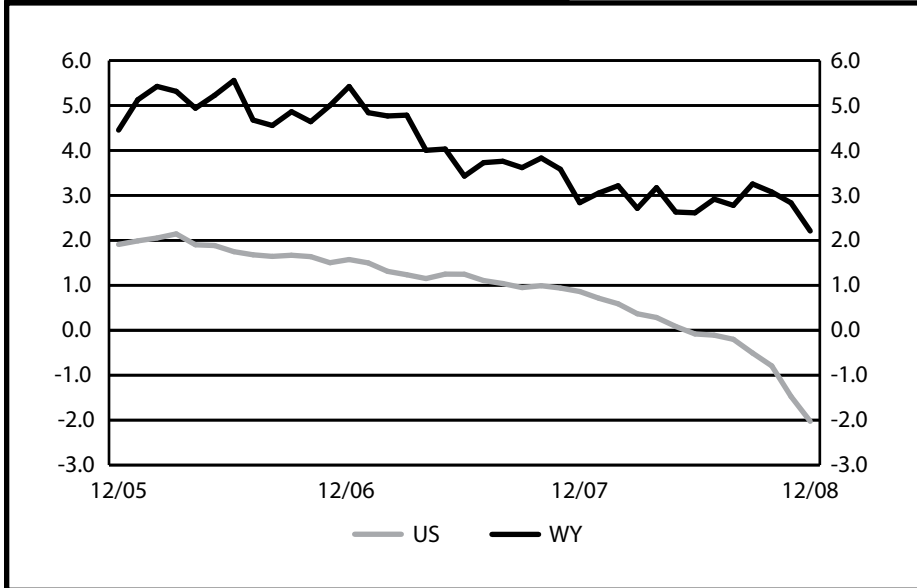
From November to December, Wyoming lost 1,500 jobs (0.5%). The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to increase by approximately 1,100 jobs from November to December. Job losses in the construction sector (-2,200 jobs, or -7.9%) were somewhat greater than average for December. Seasonal job losses were also seen in manufacturing (-100 jobs, or -1.0%), professional & business services (-300 jobs, or -1.6%), and educational & health services (-600 jobs, or -2.4%). Employment increased in leisure & hospitality (1,100 jobs, or 3.5%).

Compared to a year earlier, Wyoming added 6,400 jobs (2.2%). Government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals) added 2,200 jobs (3.2%) and natural resources & mining (including oil & gas) added 2,000 jobs (7.3%). Other job gains were noted in retail trade (700 jobs, or 2.2%), professional & business services (600 jobs, or 3.4%), educational & health services (600 jobs, or 2.5%), and leisure & hospitality (400 jobs, or 1.3%). Employment fell below its year-ago levels in construction (-400 jobs, or -1.5%) and manufacturing (-200 jobs, or -1.9%) and was unchanged in information and transportation, warehousing, & utilities.

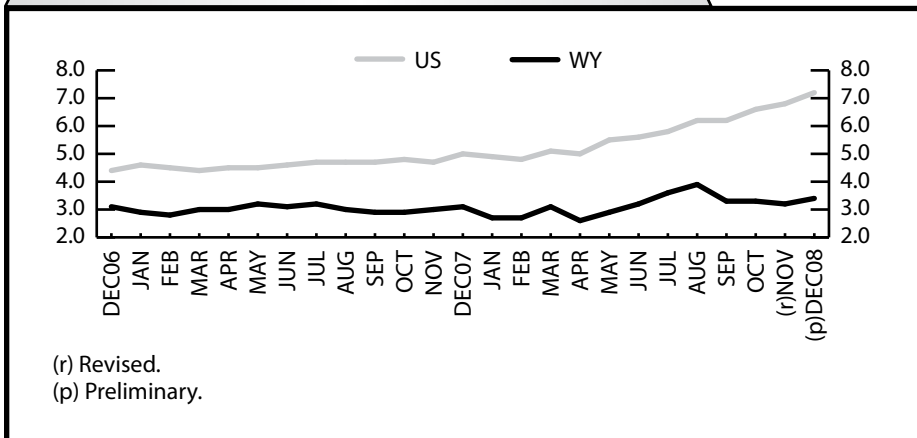
Across Wyoming's 23 counties, unemployment rates remained relatively low. Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (4.9%) in December, followed by Platte (4.8%) and Fremont (4.7%) counties. Most unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from November to December. Campbell County and Sublette County tied for the lowest unemployment rate (2.1%) in December, followed by Albany County (2.5%) and Sweetwater County (2.8%).



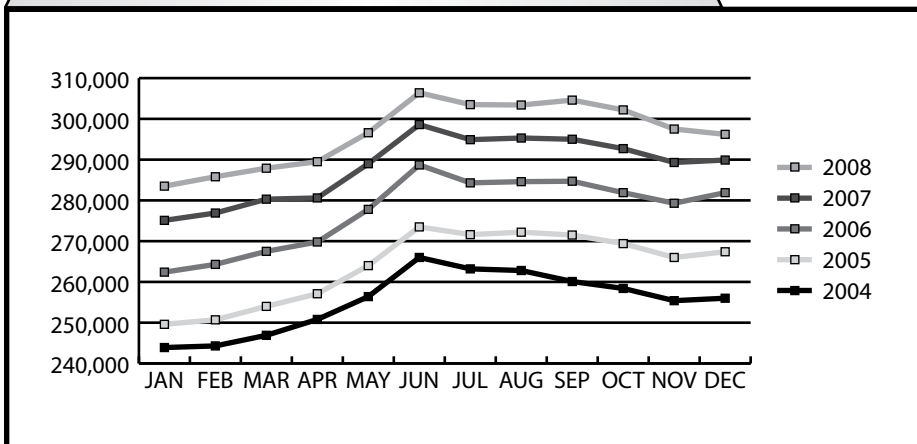
**Nonagricultural Employment Growth  
(Percentage Change Over Previous Year)**



**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)**



**Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**



**State Unemployment Rates  
December 2008  
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

| State                | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico          | 13.5        |
| Michigan             | 10.6        |
| Rhode Island         | 10.0        |
| South Carolina       | 9.5         |
| California           | 9.3         |
| Nevada               | 9.1         |
| Oregon               | 9.0         |
| District of Columbia | 8.8         |
| North Carolina       | 8.7         |
| Indiana              | 8.2         |
| Florida              | 8.1         |
| Georgia              | 8.1         |
| Mississippi          | 8.0         |
| Tennessee            | 7.9         |
| Kentucky             | 7.8         |
| Ohio                 | 7.8         |
| Illinois             | 7.6         |
| Alaska               | 7.5         |
| Missouri             | 7.3         |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>7.2</b>  |
| Connecticut          | 7.1         |
| New Jersey           | 7.1         |
| Washington           | 7.1         |
| Maine                | 7.0         |
| New York             | 7.0         |
| Arizona              | 6.9         |
| Massachusetts        | 6.9         |
| Minnesota            | 6.9         |
| Alabama              | 6.7         |
| Pennsylvania         | 6.7         |
| Idaho                | 6.4         |
| Vermont              | 6.4         |
| Arkansas             | 6.2         |
| Delaware             | 6.2         |
| Wisconsin            | 6.2         |
| Colorado             | 6.1         |
| Texas                | 6.0         |
| Louisiana            | 5.9         |
| Maryland             | 5.8         |
| Hawaii               | 5.5         |
| Montana              | 5.4         |
| Virginia             | 5.4         |
| Kansas               | 5.2         |
| New Mexico           | 4.9         |
| Oklahoma             | 4.9         |
| West Virginia        | 4.9         |
| Iowa                 | 4.6         |
| New Hampshire        | 4.6         |
| Utah                 | 4.3         |
| Nebraska             | 4.0         |
| South Dakota         | 3.9         |
| North Dakota         | 3.5         |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       | <b>3.4</b>  |

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

*Job losses in the construction sector (-2,200 jobs, or -7.9%) were somewhat greater than average for December.*

| WYOMING STATEWIDE                                | Employment in<br>Thousands |              | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |             |            | LARAMIE COUNTY                                   | Employment in<br>Thousands |             | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |             |             |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Dec08(p)                   | Nov08(r)     | Dec07                                 | Dec08       | Dec08      |  | Dec08(p)                   | Nov08(r)    | Dec07                                 | Dec08       | Dec08       |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>296.2</b>               | <b>297.7</b> | <b>289.8</b>                          | <b>-0.5</b> | <b>2.2</b> | <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>45.4</b>                | <b>45.5</b> | <b>45.0</b>                           | <b>-0.2</b> | <b>0.9</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>225.3</b>               | <b>226.8</b> | <b>221.1</b>                          | <b>-0.7</b> | <b>1.9</b> | <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>31.8</b>                | <b>31.8</b> | <b>31.5</b>                           | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>1.0</b>  |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>65.4</b>                | <b>67.6</b>  | <b>64.0</b>                           | <b>-3.3</b> | <b>2.2</b> | <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>4.7</b>                 | <b>4.9</b>  | <b>4.8</b>                            | <b>-4.1</b> | <b>-2.1</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 29.5                       | 29.4         | 27.5                                  | 0.3         | 7.3        | Natural Res., Mining, & Construction             | 3.0                        | 3.2         | 3.2                                   | -6.3        | -6.3        |
| Mining   | 29.4                       | 29.3         | 27.4                                  | 0.3         | 7.3        | Manufacturing                                    | 1.7                        | 1.7         | 1.6                                   | 0.0         | 6.2         |
| Oil & Gas Extraction                             | 4.6                        | 4.5          | 4.4                                   | 2.2         | 4.5        | <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>40.7</b>                | <b>40.6</b> | <b>40.2</b>                           | <b>0.2</b>  | <b>1.2</b>  |
| Mining Except Oil & Gas                          | 9.9                        | 9.9          | 9.3                                   | 0.0         | 6.5        | Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 10.1                       | 10.1        | 10.2                                  | 0.0         | -1.0        |
| Coal Mining                                      | 7.0                        | 7.0          | 6.4                                   | 0.0         | 9.4        | Wholesale Trade                                  | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 0.8                                   | 0.0         | 12.5        |
| Support Activities for Mining                    | 14.9                       | 14.9         | 13.7                                  | 0.0         | 8.8        | Retail Trade                                     | 5.9                        | 5.9         | 6.0                                   | 0.0         | -1.7        |
| Support Act. for Oil & Gas                       | 10.7                       | 10.7         | 10.1                                  | 0.0         | 5.9        | Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities                 | 3.3                        | 3.3         | 3.4                                   | 0.0         | -2.9        |
| Construction                                     | 25.7                       | 27.9         | 26.1                                  | -7.9        | -1.5       | Information                                      | 1.1                        | 1.0         | 1.1                                   | 10.0        | 0.0         |
| Construction of Buildings                        | 4.4                        | 4.6          | 4.7                                   | -4.3        | -6.4       | Financial Activities                             | 2.2                        | 2.2         | 2.0                                   | 0.0         | 10.0        |
| Heavy & Engineering Constr.                      | 8.4                        | 9.3          | 9.1                                   | -9.7        | -7.7       | Professional & Business Services                 | 3.4                        | 3.4         | 3.3                                   | 0.0         | 3.0         |
| Specialty Trade Contractors                      | 12.9                       | 14.0         | 12.3                                  | -7.9        | 4.9        | Educational & Health Services                    | 4.0                        | 4.0         | 3.9                                   | 0.0         | 2.6         |
| Manufacturing                                    | 10.2                       | 10.3         | 10.4                                  | -1.0        | -1.9       | Leisure & Hospitality                            | 4.6                        | 4.6         | 4.5                                   | 0.0         | 2.2         |
| Durable Goods                                    | 5.3                        | 5.2          | 5.4                                   | 1.9         | -1.9       | Other Services                                   | 1.7                        | 1.6         | 1.7                                   | 6.2         | 0.0         |
| Nondurable Goods                                 | 5.0                        | 5.0          | 5.1                                   | 0.0         | -2.0       | <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>13.6</b>                | <b>13.7</b> | <b>13.5</b>                           | <b>-0.7</b> | <b>0.7</b>  |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>230.8</b>               | <b>230.1</b> | <b>225.8</b>                          | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>2.2</b> | Federal Government                               | 2.6                        | 2.6         | 2.6                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.              | 57.3                       | 56.8         | 56.5                                  | 0.9         | 1.4        | State Government                                 | 4.1                        | 4.1         | 4.0                                   | 0.0         | 2.5         |
| Wholesale Trade                                  | 9.2                        | 9.1          | 9.1                                   | 1.1         | 1.1        | Local Government                                 | 6.9                        | 7.0         | 6.9                                   | -1.4        | 0.0         |
| Merchant Wholesalers, Durable                    | 6.0                        | 5.9          | 5.4                                   | 1.7         | 11.1       | Local Education                                  | 3.5                        | 3.6         | 3.6                                   | -2.8        | -2.8        |
| Retail Trade                                     | 32.9                       | 32.7         | 32.2                                  | 0.6         | 2.2        | <b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>                            |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers                    | 4.7                        | 4.7          | 4.7                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        | <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Food & Beverage Stores                           | 4.7                        | 4.7          | 4.7                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        | <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Grocery Stores                                   | 4.0                        | 4.0          | 3.9                                   | 0.0         | 2.6        | <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Gasoline Stations                                | 4.0                        | 4.0          | 4.0                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        | Natural Resources & Mining                       |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| General Merchandise Stores                       | 6.9                        | 6.8          | 6.8                                   | 1.5         | 1.5        | Construction                                     |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Miscellaneous Store Retailers                    | 2.0                        | 1.9          | 2.0                                   | 5.3         | 0.0        | Manufacturing                                    |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities                 | 15.2                       | 15.0         | 15.2                                  | 1.3         | 0.0        | <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Utilities  | 2.6                        | 2.6          | 2.5                                   | 0.0         | 4.0        | Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Transportation & Warehousing                     | 12.6                       | 12.4         | 12.7                                  | 1.6         | -0.8       | Wholesale Trade                                  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Truck Transportation                             | 4.6                        | 4.6          | 4.4                                   | 0.0         | 4.5        | Retail Trade                                     |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Information                                      | 4.0                        | 4.0          | 4.0                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        | Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities                 |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Financial Activities                             | 11.7                       | 11.7         | 11.6                                  | 0.0         | 0.9        | Information                                      |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Finance & Insurance                              | 7.2                        | 7.2          | 7.0                                   | 0.0         | 2.9        | Financial Activities                             |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing                   | 4.5                        | 4.5          | 4.6                                   | 0.0         | -2.2       | Professional & Business Services                 |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 18.4                       | 18.7         | 17.8                                  | -1.6        | 3.4        | Educational & Health Services                    |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services              | 9.8                        | 10.0         | 9.6                                   | -2.0        | 2.1        | Leisure & Hospitality                            |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Architect., Engineering, & Rel.                  | 3.1                        | 3.0          | 2.8                                   | 3.3         | 10.7       | Other Services                                   |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises                 | 0.8                        | 0.8          | 0.8                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        | <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Admin., Support, & Waste Services                | 7.8                        | 7.9          | 7.4                                   | -1.3        | 5.4        | Federal Government                               |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 24.3                       | 24.9         | 23.7                                  | -2.4        | 2.5        | State Government                                 |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Educational Services                             | 2.1                        | 2.7          | 2.2                                   | -22.2       | -4.5       | Local Government                                 |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Health Care & Social Assistance                  | 22.2                       | 22.2         | 21.5                                  | 0.0         | 3.3        | Local Education                                  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Ambulatory Health Care                           | 8.3                        | 8.2          | 8.0                                   | 1.2         | 3.8        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Offices of Physicians                            | 3.2                        | 3.1          | 3.2                                   | 3.2         | 0.0        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Hospitals  | 3.2                        | 3.3          | 3.1                                   | -3.0        | 3.2        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Nursing & Res. Care Facilities                   | 4.5                        | 4.5          | 4.6                                   | 0.0         | -2.2       |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Social Assistance                                | 6.2                        | 6.2          | 5.8                                   | 0.0         | 6.9        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 32.2                       | 31.1         | 31.8                                  | 3.5         | 1.3        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation                | 2.4                        | 2.4          | 2.4                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Accommodation & Food Services                    | 29.8                       | 28.7         | 29.4                                  | 3.8         | 1.4        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Accommodation                                    | 10.8                       | 9.9          | 10.4                                  | 9.1         | 3.8        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Food Services & Drinking Places                  | 19.0                       | 18.8         | 19.0                                  | 1.1         | 0.0        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Other Services                                   | 12.0                       | 12.0         | 11.7                                  | 0.0         | 2.6        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Repair & Maintenance                             | 4.1                        | 4.1          | 3.9                                   | 0.0         | 5.1        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>70.9</b>                | <b>70.9</b>  | <b>68.7</b>                           | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>3.2</b> |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Federal Government                               | 7.1                        | 7.1          | 7.0                                   | 0.0         | 1.4        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| State Government                                 | 16.4                       | 16.5         | 15.6                                  | -0.6        | 5.1        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| State Government Education                       | 7.3                        | 7.4          | 6.6                                   | -1.4        | 10.6       |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Local Government                                 | 47.4                       | 47.3         | 46.1                                  | 0.2         | 2.8        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Local Government Education                       | 25.3                       | 25.2         | 24.4                                  | 0.4         | 3.7        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |
| Hospitals  | 6.6                        | 6.6          | 6.2                                   | 0.0         | 6.5        |  |                            |             |                                       |             |             |

### 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) discontinued 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>.

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 and Laramie County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

|  | Employment in<br>Thousands |             |             | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |            |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|  | Dec08                      | Nov08       | Dec07       | Nov08                                 | Dec07      |
|  |                            |             |             | Dec08                                 | Dec08      |
| <b>CAMPBELL COUNTY</b>                           |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>30.1</b>                | <b>30.0</b> | <b>28.6</b> | <b>0.3</b>                            | <b>5.2</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>25.8</b>                | <b>25.7</b> | <b>24.4</b> | <b>0.4</b>                            | <b>5.7</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>13.1</b>                | <b>13.0</b> | <b>12.3</b> | <b>0.8</b>                            | <b>6.5</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 8.4                        | 8.3         | 7.9         | 1.2                                   | 6.3        |
| Construction                                     | 4.0                        | 4.0         | 3.7         | 0.0                                   | 8.1        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 0.7                        | 0.7         | 0.7         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>17.0</b>                | <b>17.0</b> | <b>16.3</b> | <b>0.0</b>                            | <b>4.3</b> |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 5.7                        | 5.7         | 5.5         | 0.0                                   | 3.6        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 0.8                        | 0.8         | 0.7         | 0.0                                   | 14.3       |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 2.0                        | 2.0         | 1.8         | 0.0                                   | 11.1       |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | 11.1       |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 1.9                        | 1.9         | 1.9         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Other Services                                   | 1.1                        | 1.1         | 1.1         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>4.3</b>                 | <b>4.3</b>  | <b>4.2</b>  | <b>0.0</b>                            | <b>2.4</b> |
| <b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>                         |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>26.2</b>                | <b>26.2</b> | <b>26.0</b> | <b>0.0</b>                            | <b>0.8</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>21.6</b>                | <b>21.7</b> | <b>21.5</b> | <b>-0.5</b>                           | <b>0.5</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>9.6</b>                 | <b>9.8</b>  | <b>9.4</b>  | <b>-2.0</b>                           | <b>2.1</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 6.0                        | 6.0         | 5.6         | 0.0                                   | 7.1        |
| Construction                                     | 2.3                        | 2.5         | 2.5         | -8.0                                  | -8.0       |
| Manufacturing                                    | 1.3                        | 1.3         | 1.3         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>16.6</b>                | <b>16.4</b> | <b>16.6</b> | <b>1.2</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 5.5                        | 5.4         | 5.4         | 1.9                                   | 1.9        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 1.2                        | 1.2         | 1.3         | 0.0                                   | -7.7       |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 1.0         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 2.4                        | 2.4         | 2.4         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Other Services                                   | 0.8                        | 0.8         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | -11.1      |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>4.6</b>                 | <b>4.5</b>  | <b>4.5</b>  | <b>2.2</b>                            | <b>2.2</b> |
| <b>TETON COUNTY</b>                              |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>18.8</b>                | <b>17.1</b> | <b>17.7</b> | <b>9.9</b>                            | <b>6.2</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>16.5</b>                | <b>14.9</b> | <b>15.5</b> | <b>10.7</b>                           | <b>6.5</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>2.6</b>                 | <b>2.7</b>  | <b>2.6</b>  | <b>-3.7</b>                           | <b>0.0</b> |
| Natural Res., Mining, & Construction             | 2.5                        | 2.6         | 2.4         | -3.8                                  | 4.2        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 0.1                        | 0.1         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | -50.0      |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>16.2</b>                | <b>14.4</b> | <b>15.1</b> | <b>12.5</b>                           | <b>7.3</b> |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 2.7                        | 2.5         | 2.6         | 8.0                                   | 3.8        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 1.0         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 1.8                        | 1.8         | 1.7         | 0.0                                   | 5.9        |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 1.0                        | 0.9         | 0.8         | 11.1                                  | 25.0       |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 6.7                        | 5.3         | 6.1         | 26.4                                  | 9.8        |
| Other Services                                   | 0.5                        | 0.5         | 0.5         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>2.3</b>                 | <b>2.2</b>  | <b>2.2</b>  | <b>4.5</b>                            | <b>4.5</b> |

## State Unemployment Rates December 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| State                | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico          | 13.1        |
| Michigan             | 10.4        |
| Rhode Island         | 9.6         |
| South Carolina       | 9.3         |
| California           | 9.1         |
| Nevada               | 9.0         |
| District of Columbia | 8.9         |
| Oregon               | 8.8         |
| North Carolina       | 8.5         |
| Indiana              | 8.1         |
| Florida              | 7.8         |
| Georgia              | 7.8         |
| Alaska               | 7.7         |
| Mississippi          | 7.6         |
| Ohio                 | 7.6         |
| Tennessee            | 7.6         |
| Kentucky             | 7.5         |
| Illinois             | 7.4         |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>7.1</b>  |
| Washington           | 7.1         |
| Maine                | 7.0         |
| Missouri             | 7.0         |
| Minnesota            | 6.8         |
| New Jersey           | 6.8         |
| New York             | 6.8         |
| Arizona              | 6.7         |
| Connecticut          | 6.6         |
| Idaho                | 6.5         |
| Massachusetts        | 6.5         |
| Alabama              | 6.4         |
| Pennsylvania         | 6.4         |
| Arkansas             | 6.0         |
| Vermont              | 6.0         |
| Colorado             | 5.9         |
| Delaware             | 5.9         |
| Wisconsin            | 5.8         |
| Texas                | 5.7         |
| Maryland             | 5.6         |
| Louisiana            | 5.5         |
| Montana              | 5.5         |
| Virginia             | 5.2         |
| Hawaii               | 5.1         |
| Kansas               | 4.9         |
| Iowa                 | 4.8         |
| Oklahoma             | 4.8         |
| New Mexico           | 4.5         |
| West Virginia        | 4.4         |
| New Hampshire        | 4.3         |
| Utah                 | 4.0         |
| South Dakota         | 3.9         |
| Nebraska             | 3.8         |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       | <b>3.5</b>  |
| North Dakota         | 3.4         |

## Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

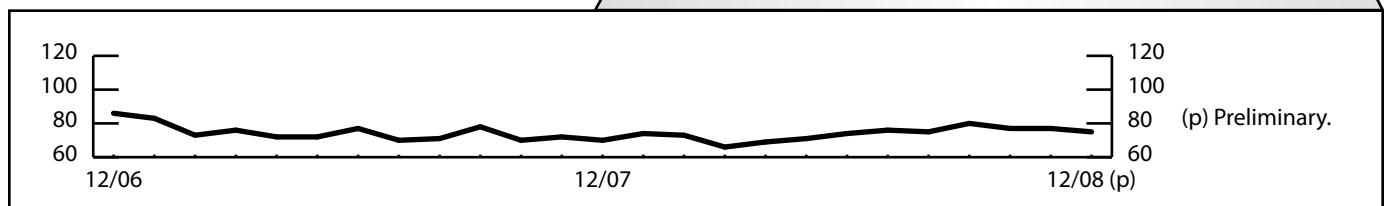
Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.4% in December 2008 was the lowest of the 50 states.

|   | Dec                                     | Nov          | Dec          | Percentage Change |       |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------|
|   | 2008<br>(p)                             | 2008<br>(r)  | 2007<br>(b)  | Month             | Year  |
| Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force <sup>a</sup>   | 292,262                                 | 293,068      | 288,976      | -0.3              | 1.1   |
| Unemployed  | 10,368                                  | 8,928        | 10,186       | 16.1              | 1.8   |
| Employed  | 281,894                                 | 284,140      | 278,790      | -0.8              | 1.1   |
| Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted   | 3.5%/3.4%                               | 3.0%/3.2%    | 3.5%/3.1%    | N/A               | N/A   |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted  | 7.1%/7.2%                               | 6.5%/6.8%    | 4.8%/4.9%    | N/A               | N/A   |
| U.S. Multiple Jobholders  | 7,432,000                               | 7,539,000    | 7,577,000    | -1.4              | -1.9  |
| As a percentage of all workers  | 5.2%                                    | 5.2%         | 5.2%         | N/A               | N/A   |
| U.S. Discouraged Workers  | 642,000                                 | 608,000      | 363,000      | 5.6               | 76.9  |
| U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons   | 8,250,000                               | 7,135,000    | 4,750,000    | 15.6              | 73.7  |
| Hours & Earnings for Production Workers   |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Wyoming Mining  |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Average Weekly Earnings   | Data not available; see box on page 18. |              |              |                   |       |
| Average Weekly Hours  | Data not available; see box on page 18. |              |              |                   |       |
| U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings  |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Average Weekly Earnings   | \$1,076.38                              | \$1,106.18   | \$1,020.74   | -2.7              | 5.5   |
| Average Weekly Hours  | 44.7                                    | 46.4         | 46.0         | -3.7              | -2.8  |
| Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings  |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Average Weekly Earnings   | \$882.54                                | \$896.05     | \$861.54     | -1.5              | 2.4   |
| Average Weekly Hours  | 42.8                                    | 43.1         | 43.6         | -0.7              | -1.8  |
| U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings   |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Average Weekly Earnings   | \$726.61                                | \$726.57     | \$728.42     | 0.0               | -0.2  |
| Average Weekly Hours  | 40.3                                    | 40.5         | 41.6         | -0.5              | -3.1  |
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance  |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Weeks Compensated   | 23,539                                  | 12,555       | 11,125       | 87.5              | 111.6 |
| Benefits Paid   | \$7,315,913                             | \$3,833,824  | \$3,148,580  | 90.8              | 132.4 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment  | \$310.80                                | \$305.36     | \$283.02     | 1.8               | 9.8   |
| State Insured Covered Jobs <sup>a</sup>   | 278,216                                 | 277,078      | 268,337      | 0.4               | 3.7   |
| Insured Unemployment Rate   | 1.7%                                    | 1.1%         | 1.0%         | N/A               | N/A   |
| Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers<br>(1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Items |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Food & Beverages  | 210.2                                   | 212.4        | 210.0        | -1.0              | 0.1   |
| Housing   | 218.8                                   | 218.8        | 206.9        | 0.0               | 5.8   |
| Apparel   | 216.1                                   | 216.5        | 210.9        | -0.2              | 2.4   |
| Transportation  | 117.1                                   | 121.3        | 118.3        | -3.5              | -1.0  |
| Medical Care  | 164.6                                   | 173.6        | 190.0        | -5.2              | -13.3 |
| Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)  | 367.1                                   | 366.6        | 357.7        | 0.1               | 2.6   |
| Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)   | 113.7                                   | 114.1        | 111.7        | -0.4              | 1.8   |
| Other Goods & Services  | 125.9                                   | 125.8        | 121.5        | 0.1               | 3.6   |
| Other Goods & Services  | 349.2                                   | 349.0        | 337.6        | 0.1               | 3.4   |
| Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities                                    |   |              |              |                   |       |
|   | 171.3                                   | 177.5        | 178.6        | -3.5              | -4.1  |
| Wyoming Building Permits<br>(New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)                |   |              |              |                   |       |
| Total Units   | 103                                     | 107          | 91           | -3.7              | 13.2  |
| Valuation   | \$19,032,000                            | \$18,652,000 | \$21,075,000 | 2.0               | -9.7  |
| Single Family Homes   | 79                                      | 65           | 77           | 21.5              | 2.6   |
| Valuation   | \$17,983,000                            | \$15,943,000 | \$20,048,000 | 12.8              | -10.3 |
| Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY                                       | 75                                      | 77           | 70           | -2.6              | 7.1   |

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

<sup>a</sup>Local Area Unemployment Statistics program estimates.

### Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming



## Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

*Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (4.9%) in December, followed by Platte (4.8%) and Fremont (4.7%) counties.*

| REGION<br>County                    | Labor Force        |                    |                    | Employed           |                    |                    | Unemployed         |                    |                    | Unemployment Rate  |                    |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                     | Dec<br>2008<br>(p) | Nov<br>2008<br>(r) | Dec<br>2007<br>(b) | Dec<br>2008<br>(p) | Nov<br>2008<br>(r) | Dec<br>2007<br>(b) | Dec<br>2008<br>(p) | Nov<br>2008<br>(r) | Dec<br>2007<br>(b) | Dec<br>2008<br>(p) | Nov<br>2008<br>(r) | Dec<br>2007<br>(b) |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>                    | <b>43,554</b>      | <b>43,395</b>      | <b>43,452</b>      | <b>41,635</b>      | <b>41,750</b>      | <b>41,433</b>      | <b>1,919</b>       | <b>1,645</b>       | <b>2,019</b>       | <b>4.4</b>         | <b>3.8</b>         | <b>4.6</b>         |
| Big Horn                            | 4,970              | 4,821              | 4,945              | 4,755              | 4,643              | 4,688              | 215                | 178                | 257                | 4.3                | 3.7                | 5.2                |
| Fremont                             | 18,272             | 18,253             | 18,312             | 17,408             | 17,510             | 17,433             | 864                | 743                | 879                | 4.7                | 4.1                | 4.8                |
| Hot Springs                         | 2,356              | 2,300              | 2,369              | 2,261              | 2,218              | 2,268              | 95                 | 82                 | 101                | 4.0                | 3.6                | 4.3                |
| Park                                | 13,639             | 13,750             | 13,549             | 13,038             | 13,227             | 12,922             | 601                | 523                | 627                | 4.4                | 3.8                | 4.6                |
| Washakie                            | 4,317              | 4,271              | 4,277              | 4,173              | 4,152              | 4,122              | 144                | 119                | 155                | 3.3                | 2.8                | 3.6                |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>                    | <b>53,674</b>      | <b>54,117</b>      | <b>52,233</b>      | <b>52,117</b>      | <b>52,809</b>      | <b>50,682</b>      | <b>1,557</b>       | <b>1,308</b>       | <b>1,551</b>       | <b>2.9</b>         | <b>2.4</b>         | <b>3.0</b>         |
| Campbell                            | 27,339             | 27,648             | 25,999             | 26,774             | 27,141             | 25,384             | 565                | 507                | 615                | 2.1                | 1.8                | 2.4                |
| Crook                               | 3,422              | 3,448              | 3,455              | 3,296              | 3,342              | 3,330              | 126                | 106                | 125                | 3.7                | 3.1                | 3.6                |
| Johnson                             | 3,862              | 3,937              | 3,845              | 3,689              | 3,793              | 3,682              | 173                | 144                | 163                | 4.5                | 3.7                | 4.2                |
| Sheridan                            | 15,821             | 15,893             | 15,688             | 15,249             | 15,450             | 15,165             | 572                | 443                | 523                | 3.6                | 2.8                | 3.3                |
| Weston                              | 3,230              | 3,191              | 3,246              | 3,109              | 3,083              | 3,121              | 121                | 108                | 125                | 3.7                | 3.4                | 3.9                |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>                    | <b>65,847</b>      | <b>66,176</b>      | <b>65,051</b>      | <b>63,684</b>      | <b>64,210</b>      | <b>63,234</b>      | <b>2,163</b>       | <b>1,966</b>       | <b>1,817</b>       | <b>3.3</b>         | <b>3.0</b>         | <b>2.8</b>         |
| Lincoln                             | 8,149              | 9,190              | 8,949              | 7,747              | 8,887              | 8,675              | 402                | 303                | 274                | 4.9                | 3.3                | 3.1                |
| Sublette                            | 7,045              | 7,090              | 6,809              | 6,896              | 6,984              | 6,686              | 149                | 106                | 123                | 2.1                | 1.5                | 1.8                |
| Sweetwater                          | 24,155             | 24,456             | 23,996             | 23,469             | 23,862             | 23,347             | 686                | 594                | 649                | 2.8                | 2.4                | 2.7                |
| Teton                               | 14,827             | 14,243             | 13,870             | 14,305             | 13,605             | 13,490             | 522                | 638                | 380                | 3.5                | 4.5                | 2.7                |
| Uinta                               | 11,671             | 11,197             | 11,427             | 11,267             | 10,872             | 11,036             | 404                | 325                | 391                | 3.5                | 2.9                | 3.4                |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>                    | <b>73,294</b>      | <b>73,431</b>      | <b>72,922</b>      | <b>70,449</b>      | <b>70,987</b>      | <b>69,958</b>      | <b>2,845</b>       | <b>2,444</b>       | <b>2,964</b>       | <b>3.9</b>         | <b>3.3</b>         | <b>4.1</b>         |
| Albany                              | 19,788             | 19,581             | 19,121             | 19,292             | 19,135             | 18,630             | 496                | 446                | 491                | 2.5                | 2.3                | 2.6                |
| Goshen                              | 6,114              | 6,085              | 6,065              | 5,884              | 5,877              | 5,827              | 230                | 208                | 238                | 3.8                | 3.4                | 3.9                |
| Laramie                             | 42,383             | 42,727             | 42,685             | 40,500             | 41,144             | 40,723             | 1,883              | 1,583              | 1,962              | 4.4                | 3.7                | 4.6                |
| Niobrara                            | 1,169              | 1,180              | 1,196              | 1,117              | 1,135              | 1,130              | 52                 | 45                 | 66                 | 4.4                | 3.8                | 5.5                |
| Platte                              | 3,840              | 3,858              | 3,855              | 3,656              | 3,696              | 3,648              | 184                | 162                | 207                | 4.8                | 4.2                | 5.4                |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                      | <b>55,892</b>      | <b>55,946</b>      | <b>55,319</b>      | <b>54,008</b>      | <b>54,383</b>      | <b>53,484</b>      | <b>1,884</b>       | <b>1,563</b>       | <b>1,835</b>       | <b>3.4</b>         | <b>2.8</b>         | <b>3.3</b>         |
| Carbon                              | 8,029              | 8,227              | 7,990              | 7,664              | 7,947              | 7,693              | 365                | 280                | 297                | 4.5                | 3.4                | 3.7                |
| Converse                            | 7,289              | 7,054              | 6,860              | 7,062              | 6,853              | 6,605              | 227                | 201                | 255                | 3.1                | 2.8                | 3.7                |
| Natrona                             | 40,574             | 40,665             | 40,469             | 39,282             | 39,583             | 39,186             | 1,292              | 1,082              | 1,283              | 3.2                | 2.7                | 3.2                |
| <b>STATEWIDE</b>                    | <b>292,262</b>     | <b>293,068</b>     | <b>288,976</b>     | <b>281,894</b>     | <b>284,140</b>     | <b>278,790</b>     | <b>10,368</b>      | <b>8,928</b>       | <b>10,186</b>      | <b>3.5</b>         | <b>3.0</b>         | <b>3.5</b>         |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted ..... |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 3.4                | 3.2                | 3.1                |
| U.S. ....                           |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 7.1                | 6.5                | 4.8                |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted .....      |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | 7.2                | 6.8                | 4.9                |

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/08. Run date 01/09.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

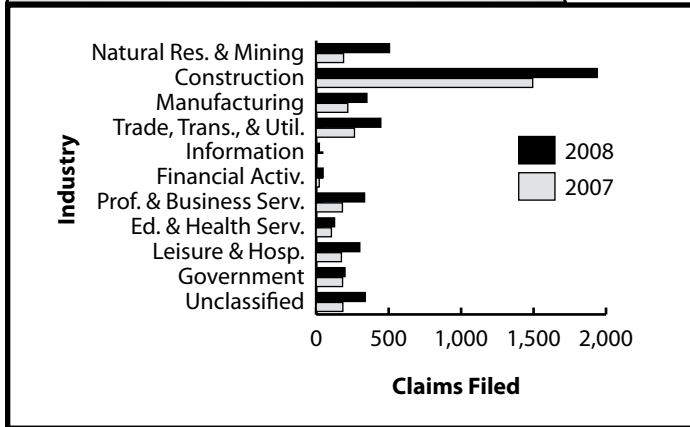
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

# Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

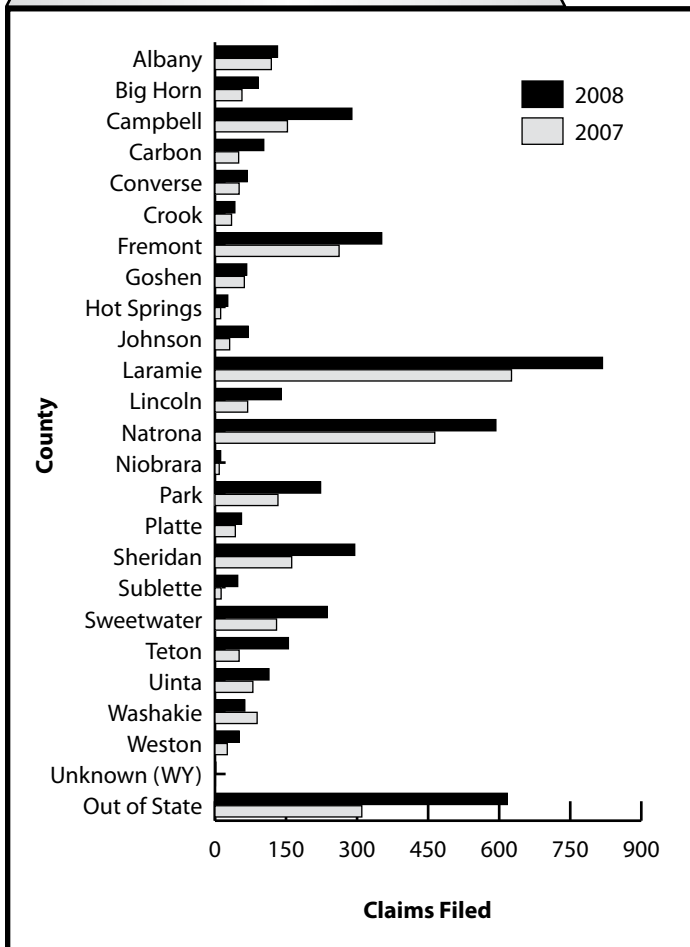
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

December 2008 claims increased 31.7% from November and 53.7% from December 2007. Claims more than doubled in mining and increased substantially in the service sector compared to 2007.

**Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2008**



**Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2008**



## Initial Claims

|                                 | Percentage Change<br>Claims Filed |              |              |              |             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                 | Claims Filed                      |              | Nov08        |              | Dec07       |
|                                 | Dec08                             | Nov08        | Dec07        | Dec08        | Dec07       |
| <b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>        |                                   |              |              |              |             |
| <b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>       | <b>4,669</b>                      | <b>3,544</b> | <b>3,038</b> | <b>31.7</b>  | <b>53.7</b> |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>2,796</b>                      | <b>1,447</b> | <b>1,901</b> | <b>93.2</b>  | <b>47.1</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining      | 506                               | 239          | 189          | 111.7        | 167.7       |
| Mining                          | 479                               | 211          | 178          | 127.0        | 169.1       |
| Oil & Gas Extraction            | 80                                | 23           | 8            | 247.8        | 900.0       |
| Construction                    | 1,940                             | 1,016        | 1,494        | 90.9         | 29.9        |
| Manufacturing                   | 350                               | 192          | 218          | 82.3         | 60.6        |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>1,335</b>                      | <b>1,471</b> | <b>771</b>   | <b>-9.2</b>  | <b>73.2</b> |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 446                               | 358          | 264          | 24.6         | 68.9        |
| Wholesale Trade                 | 55                                | 63           | 40           | -12.7        | 37.5        |
| Retail Trade                    | 223                               | 219          | 150          | 1.8          | 48.7        |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities    | 168                               | 76           | 74           | 121.1        | 127.0       |
| Information                     | 22                                | 19           | 3            | 15.8         | 633.3       |
| Financial Activities            | 48                                | 62           | 21           | -22.6        | 128.6       |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 334                               | 317          | 181          | 5.4          | 84.5        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 127                               | 115          | 105          | 10.4         | 21.0        |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 301                               | 539          | 174          | -44.2        | 73.0        |
| Other Services                  | 57                                | 61           | 23           | -6.6         | 147.8       |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>199</b>                        | <b>364</b>   | <b>182</b>   | <b>-45.3</b> | <b>9.3</b>  |
| Federal Government              | 96                                | 214          | 108          | -55.1        | -11.1       |
| State Government                | 13                                | 10           | 16           | 30.0         | -18.8       |
| Local Government                | 90                                | 140          | 58           | -35.7        | 55.2        |
| Local Education                 | 20                                | 22           | 10           | -9.1         | 100.0       |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>339</b>                        | <b>262</b>   | <b>184</b>   | <b>29.4</b>  | <b>84.2</b> |
| <b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>           |                                   |              |              |              |             |
| <b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>       | <b>818</b>                        | <b>469</b>   | <b>624</b>   | <b>74.4</b>  | <b>31.1</b> |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>491</b>                        | <b>209</b>   | <b>431</b>   | <b>134.9</b> | <b>13.9</b> |
| Construction                    | 366                               | 167          | 363          | 119.2        | 0.8         |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>275</b>                        | <b>214</b>   | <b>144</b>   | <b>28.5</b>  | <b>91.0</b> |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 91                                | 66           | 55           | 37.9         | 65.5        |
| Financial Activities            | 12                                | 13           | 3            | -7.7         | 300.0       |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 76                                | 80           | 45           | -5.0         | 68.9        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 33                                | 18           | 17           | 83.3         | 94.1        |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 44                                | 23           | 18           | 91.3         | 144.4       |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>24</b>                         | <b>24</b>    | <b>25</b>    | <b>0.0</b>   | <b>-4.0</b> |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>28</b>                         | <b>22</b>    | <b>24</b>    | <b>27.3</b>  | <b>16.7</b> |
| <b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>           |                                   |              |              |              |             |
| <b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>       | <b>596</b>                        | <b>354</b>   | <b>463</b>   | <b>68.4</b>  | <b>28.7</b> |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>412</b>                        | <b>192</b>   | <b>337</b>   | <b>114.6</b> | <b>22.3</b> |
| Construction                    | 287                               | 101          | 277          | 184.2        | 3.6         |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>159</b>                        | <b>132</b>   | <b>103</b>   | <b>20.5</b>  | <b>54.4</b> |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 54                                | 41           | 34           | 31.7         | 58.8        |
| Financial Activities            | 5                                 | 6            | 3            | -16.7        | 66.7        |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 39                                | 26           | 28           | 50.0         | 39.3        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 26                                | 25           | 10           | 4.0          | 160.0       |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 23                                | 18           | 24           | 27.8         | -4.2        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>11</b>                         | <b>22</b>    | <b>11</b>    | <b>-50.0</b> | <b>0.0</b>  |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>14</b>                         | <b>8</b>     | <b>12</b>    | <b>75.0</b>  | <b>16.7</b> |

<sup>a</sup>An average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

# Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Continued weeks claimed rose 65.9% over the year. Mining and manufacturing claims more than doubled compared to December 2007. Only state government had an over-the-year decline (-23.7%).

## Continued Claims

| WYOMING STATEWIDE               | Percentage Change Claims Filed |               |               |             |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                 | Claims Filed                   |               | Claims Filed  |             |              |
|                                 | Dec08                          | Nov08         | Dec07         | Nov08       |              |
| <b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>      | <b>24,037</b>                  | <b>16,095</b> | <b>14,485</b> | <b>49.3</b> | <b>65.9</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>   | <b>6,289</b>                   | <b>4,873</b>  | <b>4,517</b>  | <b>29.1</b> | <b>39.2</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>9,781</b>                   | <b>5,135</b>  | <b>5,399</b>  | <b>90.5</b> | <b>81.2</b>  |
| Natural Resources & Mining      | 1,740                          | 1,015         | 841           | 71.4        | 106.9        |
| Mining                          | 1,574                          | 928           | 722           | 69.6        | 118.0        |
| Oil & Gas Extraction            | 375                            | 281           | 50            | 33.5        | 650.0        |
| Construction                    | 6,926                          | 3,621         | 4,069         | 91.3        | 70.2         |
| Manufacturing                   | 1,115                          | 499           | 489           | 123.4       | 128.0        |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>10,156</b>                  | <b>8,027</b>  | <b>6,223</b>  | <b>26.5</b> | <b>63.2</b>  |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 2,577                          | 1,889         | 1,539         | 36.4        | 67.4         |
| Wholesale Trade                 | 363                            | 244           | 181           | 48.8        | 100.6        |
| Retail Trade                    | 1,547                          | 1,154         | 883           | 34.1        | 75.2         |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities    | 667                            | 491           | 475           | 35.8        | 40.4         |
| Information                     | 175                            | 136           | 122           | 28.7        | 43.4         |
| Financial Activities            | 461                            | 410           | 231           | 12.4        | 99.6         |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 2,203                          | 1,419         | 1,340         | 55.3        | 64.4         |
| Educational & Health Services   | 848                            | 699           | 667           | 21.3        | 27.1         |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 3,436                          | 3,103         | 2,099         | 10.7        | 63.7         |
| Other Services                  | 456                            | 371           | 225           | 22.9        | 102.7        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>2,171</b>                   | <b>1,582</b>  | <b>1,906</b>  | <b>37.2</b> | <b>13.9</b>  |
| Federal Government              | 1,095                          | 750           | 1,036         | 46.0        | 5.7          |
| State Government                | 180                            | 176           | 236           | 2.3         | -23.7        |
| Local Government                | 896                            | 656           | 634           | 36.6        | 41.3         |
| Local Education                 | 197                            | 157           | 118           | 25.5        | 66.9         |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>1,929</b>                   | <b>1,351</b>  | <b>957</b>    | <b>42.8</b> | <b>101.6</b> |

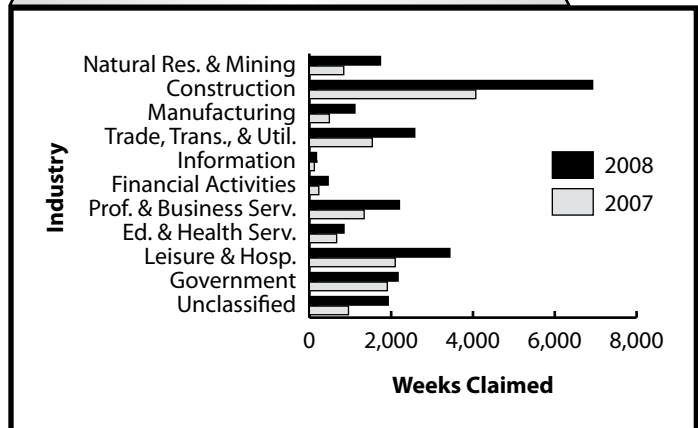
### LARAMIE COUNTY

|                                 |              |              |              |             |             |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>      | <b>3,551</b> | <b>2,367</b> | <b>2,566</b> | <b>50.0</b> | <b>38.4</b> |
| <b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>   | <b>970</b>   | <b>716</b>   | <b>828</b>   | <b>35.5</b> | <b>17.1</b> |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>1,456</b> | <b>752</b>   | <b>1,092</b> | <b>93.6</b> | <b>33.3</b> |
| Construction                    | 1,139        | 604          | 950          | 88.6        | 19.9        |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>1,659</b> | <b>1,231</b> | <b>1,130</b> | <b>34.8</b> | <b>46.8</b> |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 527          | 385          | 392          | 36.9        | 34.4        |
| Financial Activities            | 88           | 69           | 70           | 27.5        | 25.7        |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 537          | 324          | 284          | 65.7        | 89.1        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 202          | 182          | 210          | 11.0        | -3.8        |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 182          | 156          | 126          | 16.7        | 44.4        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>263</b>   | <b>245</b>   | <b>236</b>   | <b>7.3</b>  | <b>11.4</b> |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>173</b>   | <b>139</b>   | <b>108</b>   | <b>24.5</b> | <b>60.2</b> |

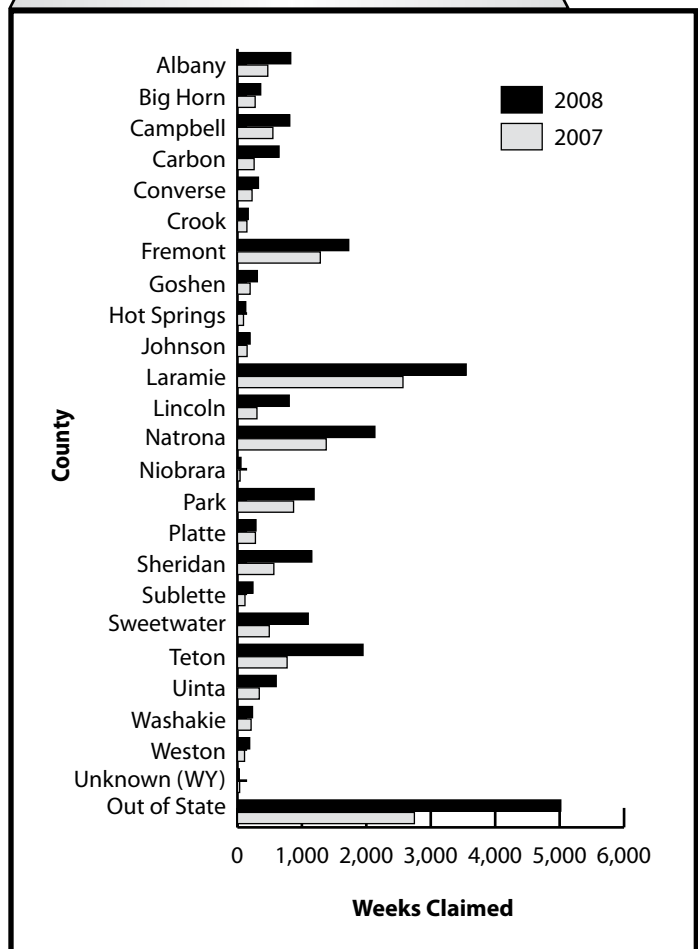
### NATRONA COUNTY

|                                 |              |              |              |             |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>      | <b>2,132</b> | <b>1,302</b> | <b>1,380</b> | <b>63.7</b> | <b>54.5</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>   | <b>563</b>   | <b>397</b>   | <b>452</b>   | <b>41.8</b> | <b>24.6</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>1,072</b> | <b>564</b>   | <b>603</b>   | <b>90.1</b> | <b>77.8</b>  |
| Construction                    | 653          | 345          | 467          | 89.3        | 39.8         |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>919</b>   | <b>643</b>   | <b>602</b>   | <b>42.9</b> | <b>52.7</b>  |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 269          | 141          | 203          | 90.8        | 32.5         |
| Financial Activities            | 59           | 66           | 47           | -10.6       | 25.5         |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 202          | 130          | 168          | 55.4        | 20.2         |
| Educational & Health Services   | 168          | 115          | 90           | 46.1        | 86.7         |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 105          | 100          | 58           | 5.0         | 81.0         |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>93</b>    | <b>54</b>    | <b>125</b>   | <b>72.2</b> | <b>-25.6</b> |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>48</b>    | <b>41</b>    | <b>50</b>    | <b>17.1</b> | <b>4.0</b>   |

## Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2008



## Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2008



<sup>a</sup>An average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

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Casper, WY 82602**

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