

# TRENDS

## The Relationship between Benefit Costs, Benefits Offered, and Industry

*by: Carola Cowan, Economist and Tom Gallagher, Manager*

**“Steep rises in costs for essential benefits have historically tended to crowd out increases in direct wage and salary compensation.”**

### Introduction

There is a broad-based need for information on the compensation of workers. Research & Planning (R&P) participates in the State/Federal Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program to produce state and local estimates of wage rates by occupation.<sup>1</sup> However, there is presently no similar program to collect information on employer-provided benefits that would produce locally relevant estimates of benefit costs to employers or provide workers with information about the availability of benefit packages. To fill this information gap, R&P began developing a mail survey technique in 1999 to estimate the cost of benefits to employers and the number and type of benefits offered to workers. While there are other uses of benefit information produced, a full accounting of costs and consumption remains a central consideration. The analysis of data from Wyoming’s mail survey indicates a positive correlation between costs and availability -- per employee benefit costs increase as the benefit package expands. However, there is a need for further analysis.

Nationally, employee benefits information is collected directly by personal interview on a quarterly basis by the Department of Labor,

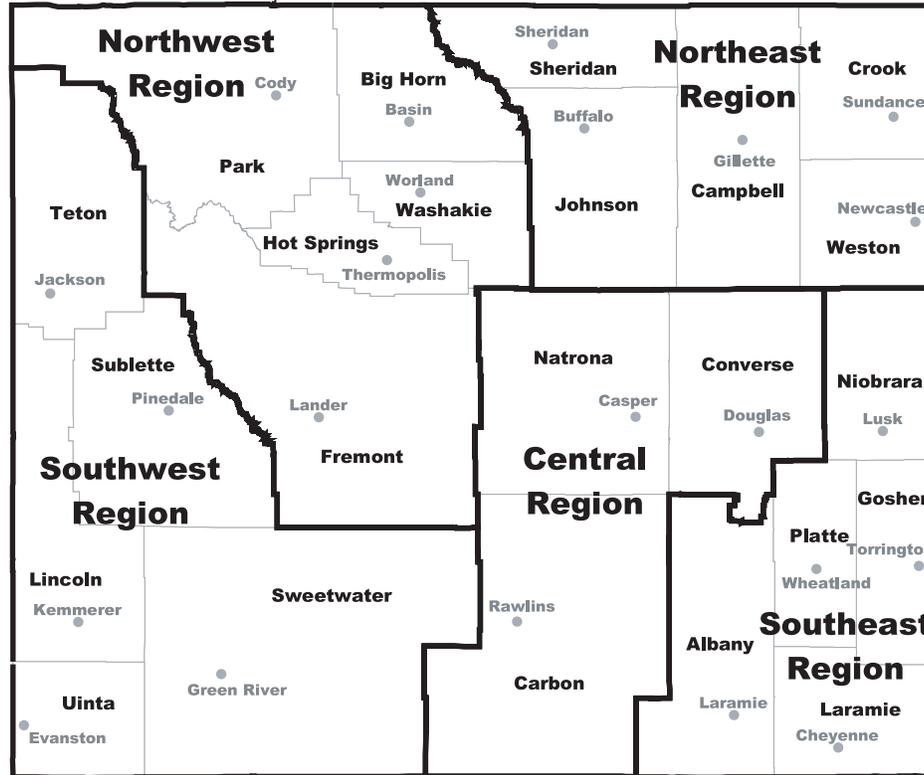
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The collection of information is conducted through interview and the collection of personnel records at the employer’s place of business. Only large firms are contacted and detailed information is collected on actual benefits paid to a sample of employees. As a function of these collections, estimates of the

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## Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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Employment Cost Index (ECI) are reported on a quarterly basis. Benefits information developed through this process is extremely expensive and is of little relevance for most employers. On the other hand, the information allows for the calculation of the cost of each benefit and therefore permits estimates of the cost of the entire benefits package typically offered to and received by employees. These benefit cost estimates, in addition to estimates for direct wage and salary compensation, permit the tracking (or indexing) of the total cost of labor over time. The budget request for the BLS' Compensation and Working Conditions activity in Fiscal Year 2002 was \$74.1 million. While yielding an accounting of cost information for each benefit feature across a variety of packages, this data collection strategy does not provide information at either the local or state level.

### Context

At the national level, benefit costs for September 2001 increased 5.1 percent from September 2000.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, wages and salaries increased by only 3.6 percent during the same period. The Employment Cost Index (ECI), according to the BLS, is an indicator of labor cost pressures.<sup>3</sup> Given the scope of the increase in benefit costs, the increased importance of tracking benefits and their cost by employers, employees, and policy makers is understandable. Due to rising benefit costs, employers may change their compensation packages to reflect these increases depending upon whether or not the costs are associated with an essential benefit affecting all workers or a benefit component associated only with a segment of workers. The BLS reports that the increase in benefit costs in private industry was largely due to increases in employers' costs for health insurance. Increases in benefit costs for State and Local Government workers were attributed to increases in employers' costs of health insurance and retirement benefits.<sup>4</sup> Steep rises in costs for essential benefits have historically tended to crowd out increases in direct wage and salary

compensation.

### Methods and Data Limitations

Given state and local interest in benefits information and the high cost of personal interviews with employers to obtain this information, R&P decided to join the ranks of state research offices conducting mail surveys to collect benefits information.<sup>5</sup> R&P uses the universe file of employers from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax files as the sample frame to collect data on 25 different types of benefits. This set of benefits is presented as a check list separately for full- and part-time employees and is grouped into four major categories: paid leave, insurance, retirement plans, and miscellaneous benefits. In addition to benefits, information is requested regarding four groups of compensation costs.<sup>6</sup>

Unlike the ECI, which depends upon expensive personal visits by highly trained staff to request specific information on each worker's benefit package and associated costs, R&P's mail survey requests the employer's voluntary participation in providing information on the characteristics of the benefit package made available to employees grouped by full- and part-time status. We also request information on total expenditures for these benefits. As a consequence of this lower cost collection strategy, we cannot directly estimate the cost of each type of benefit in the benefit package nor directly track the evolution of specific costs over time. At this point in the development of State sponsored benefit surveys, we cannot distinguish between benefit costs attributable to changes in the cost of each component of the benefit package, and costs attributable to the changing composition in the types of benefits offered and used by employees. At the same time, it is evident that benefit costs per employee are associated with the scope of benefit packages. To explore the issue of the relationship between benefit package offerings and the costs of benefits per employee, we developed an Index of Benefits Availability

(IBA), and compared it to the benefits spending information employers reported to us through mail survey. The IBA represents a single number summarizing the scope and variety of benefits offered to employees.<sup>7</sup>

In order to determine whether or not there is a relationship between the number of benefits offered and the cost of benefits per employee, we calculated the IBA for each employer. We then divided each employer's benefit costs (excluding legally required benefits) by the number of employees in the establishment to determine the average cost of benefits per employee, and compared this cost to the IBA. A problem with this technique is that we do not know if all employees in the company actually elect or are eligible to receive the benefits offered. This could lead to a relatively low cost of benefits per employee. Also, for example, the cost of employee discounts may be low compared to health insurance. The burden on the employer for benefits varies depending on the percentage the employer pays versus the percentage the employee pays. Nevertheless, when added together to form an index, each benefit has the same weight. Therefore, if employers offer many low cost benefits, their IBA would be high, but the cost of benefits per employee would be low.

As with any survey, there is non-sampling error. For example, we asked employers for the cost of paid leave. However, we do not know with certainty that it was properly allocated or reported in the appropriate cost category since paid leave is usually considered part of salaries and wages. This is also the case for some of the miscellaneous benefits such as a Christmas bonus. A personal visit to individual employers to verify benefit costs would reduce non-sampling error.<sup>8</sup>

Another limitation is that the questions pertaining to benefits offered refer to the current year while the questions about the cost of benefits refer to the previous year. Using two different reference periods could reduce the level of correlation if a company

**Table 1: Pearson Correlation Coefficients between Benefit Costs (Excluding Legally Required Benefits) and Number of Benefits Offered by Industry, 2000**

Industry	With Miscellaneous Benefits (r)	Without Miscellaneous Benefits (r)
<b>Total (n = 144)</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.72</b>
Agriculture (n = 11)	0.42	0.55
Mining (n = 11)	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.65</b>
Construction (n = 12)	0.29	0.18
Manufacturing (n = 11)	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.85</b>
TCPU* (n = 11)	0.62	0.60
Wholesale Trade (n = 8)	0.70	<b>0.82</b>
Retail Trade (n = 20)	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.81</b>
FIRE** (n = 10)	0.62	<b>0.70</b>
Services (n = 30)	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.67</b>
Government (n = 20)	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.65</b>

\*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

\*\*Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Note: Items in bold indicate significant correlations ( $p < .05$ ).

offered more benefits in the current year than the previous year. In the future we could attempt to match companies with the same characteristics over two years to determine the effect of the time lag.

## Results

Once the average cost of benefits per employee was determined, we calculated the correlation with miscellaneous benefits between the IBA (a measure of the number of benefits) and the calculated cost of benefits per employee (see Table 1). We found a positive correlation ( $r=.72$ ) that was statistically significant at the all-industry level, describing the relationship between benefit costs and the number of benefits offered.

Next, we tested if the correlation held true for the individual industries. We found that the positive correlation was statistically significant for five of the ten industries: Mining, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Services, and Government.

We suspect the industries that did not have statistically significant correlations may

**Table 2: Percentage of Companies Providing Selected Benefits to their Full- and Part-Time Employees in Wyoming by Industry, 2000**

Benefit Type	Industry									
	Agriculture	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	TCPU*	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	FIRE**	Services	Government
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>										
Child Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	3.0%	6.3%
Christmas Bonus	59.1	50.0	58.0	58.1	48.9	66.7	51.6	60.7	49.0	13.4
Dental Plan	23.8	50.0	34.8	51.6	55.3	57.6	32.1	55.2	44.6	83.2
Dependent Health Insurance	38.1	66.7	57.1	66.7	60.9	72.9	38.1	65.5	52.5	88.5
Disability Insurance	22.7	33.3	18.2	36.7	38.3	32.8	13.4	42.1	23.8	50.0
Educational Assistance	23.8	33.3	13.5	41.4	31.1	38.6	14.2	49.1	31.3	47.7
Employee Discounts	33.3	0.0	24.5	56.7	15.6	50.0	63.1	29.8	39.3	16.1
Health Insurance	50.0	66.7	60.5	76.7	73.3	80.0	45.3	78.9	62.0	92.1
Life Insurance	31.8	66.7	40.2	56.7	57.4	61.7	34.6	62.1	43.8	83.9
Long-Term Disability	10.0	33.3	10.9	27.6	23.9	29.8	11.8	33.3	20.4	40.7
Paid Funeral or Bereav. Leave	36.4	50.0	18.6	41.4	34.0	47.5	27.4	70.2	35.1	84.8
Paid Holidays	54.5	50.0	39.5	73.3	71.7	83.3	46.0	91.4	64.3	93.8
Paid Jury Duty Leave	45.5	50.0	27.5	41.4	30.4	62.7	35.7	84.5	46.3	92.8
Paid Maternity Leave	4.8	0.0	0.9	6.5	6.5	7.0	3.8	12.3	8.1	9.0
Paid Paternity Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	2.2	1.7	0.0	7.1	6.1	6.4
Paid Personal Leave	10.0	25.0	7.1	13.3	17.4	18.3	6.2	26.3	20.4	55.0
Paid Sick Leave	36.4	33.3	18.4	35.5	31.3	65.0	26.4	78.3	45.7	91.3
Paid Vacation	66.7	75.0	59.3	77.4	76.6	95.0	65.8	91.2	73.6	92.9
Profit Sharing	9.5	33.3	18.9	29.0	17.4	30.5	17.0	23.2	13.1	0.9
Retirement Plan	23.8	50.0	38.9	56.7	57.4	59.3	28.0	58.6	43.8	82.1
Tool Allowance	9.5	25.0	13.5	10.0	11.1	7.0	7.5	3.4	5.1	8.3
Uniform	23.8	25.0	15.2	23.3	28.9	33.9	46.1	8.6	21.5	24.5
Vision Plan	0.0	33.3	17.9	23.3	23.9	20.0	8.8	16.4	16.7	39.4
Wellness Program	0.0	25.0	7.2	20.0	13.3	11.9	6.5	8.8	11.8	34.5
<b>Part-Time Employees</b>										
Child Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	5.1%
Christmas Bonus	42.1	50.0	34.2	47.8	37.8	51.4	42.0	57.9	37.9	8.2
Dental Plan	0.0	0.0	10.3	9.1	5.6	7.9	3.1	15.8	15.3	23.3
Dependent Health Insurance	0.0	0.0	10.1	17.4	2.6	2.6	8.8	12.8	13.3	26.4
Disability Insurance	0.0	0.0	10.1	9.5	13.2	2.6	3.7	10.8	8.5	11.9
Educational Assistance	5.3	0.0	6.8	9.1	18.9	2.8	3.2	18.4	12.0	21.6
Employee Discounts	30.0	0.0	18.9	40.9	15.8	43.2	56.1	37.8	37.7	13.1
Health Insurance	0.0	0.0	10.3	17.4	5.3	7.9	10.0	13.2	15.3	27.1
Life Insurance	5.0	0.0	10.1	13.6	12.8	2.6	6.2	13.2	12.4	29.4
Long-Term Disability	0.0	0.0	2.7	5.0	5.3	2.6	2.0	5.6	7.5	10.1
Paid Funeral or Bereav. Leave	5.0	0.0	6.5	9.1	7.7	8.8	10.1	30.6	14.4	38.6
Paid Holidays	0.0	0.0	9.0	17.4	13.2	16.7	13.6	28.2	24.3	33.3
Paid Jury Duty Leave	10.0	0.0	12.5	18.2	13.2	34.3	19.0	44.1	28.3	53.0
Paid Maternity Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	1.2	5.4	3.1	3.8
Paid Paternity Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	2.5	3.9
Paid Personal Leave	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	5.4	4.9	20.8
Paid Sick Leave	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	8.3	6.9	23.1	14.9	36.2
Paid Vacation	0.0	0.0	10.0	9.1	10.3	11.4	14.8	25.6	28.9	30.2
Profit Sharing	0.0	0.0	6.7	9.1	5.4	8.3	3.9	18.4	5.0	0.0
Retirement Plan	10.5	0.0	9.0	18.2	17.5	22.5	11.0	28.2	22.9	40.4
Tool Allowance	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.0	2.7	2.8	1.3	5.3	0.6	4.1
Uniform	20.0	0.0	9.6	13.0	15.8	27.0	30.8	5.3	18.8	13.3
Vision Plan	0.0	0.0	7.8	4.5	5.1	2.6	3.1	5.1	6.1	12.7
Wellness Program	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.5	2.7	2.8	3.2	5.3	5.7	19.4

\*Transportation, Communications, &amp; Public Utilities.

\*\*Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate.

provide a greater number of less expensive benefits. We considered less expensive benefits to be those grouped under miscellaneous benefits in our survey (i.e., wellness programs, child day care, educational assistance, profit sharing plans, employee discounts, tool allowances, uniforms, and Christmas bonuses). These benefits were grouped under miscellaneous benefits because they did not fit in the three major groups: paid leave, insurance, and retirement benefits. However, we need improved information on the cost of each type

of benefit offered to make better determinations about the relationship between total cost and benefits offered.<sup>9</sup> This may call for a different type of information collection to supplement what we are already collecting (e.g., a statewide survey requesting that employers provide a ranking of the costs of each benefit so that we can empirically identify high cost and low cost benefits).

Table 2 shows the percentage of companies providing selected benefits to their full- and part-time employees by industry. Certain

**Table 3: Index of Benefits Availability (IBA) by Industry, 2000**

Industry	With Miscellaneous Benefits	Without Miscellaneous Benefits	Difference
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.29</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>1.54</b>
Agriculture	4.67	3.62	1.05
Mining	6.60	5.10	1.50
Construction	4.10	3.38	0.71
Manufacturing	6.85	6.17	0.68
TCPU*	7.86	5.84	2.02
Wholesale Trade	8.60	6.74	1.86
Retail Trade	4.36	2.51	1.84
FIRE**	10.25	8.23	2.02
Services	6.23	4.59	1.64
Government	10.10	8.72	1.38

\*Transportation, Communications, &amp; Public Utilities.

\*\*Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate.

benefits were more common in those industries that had no significant correlation (between the IBA and the cost of benefits per employee) than in those industries with significant correlations. For example, a Christmas bonus, employee discounts, and uniforms had relatively high occurrences in Agriculture, Construction, and Wholesale Trade, especially for part-time employees. As seen in Table 1 (see page 4), these industries do not have statistical significant correlations between benefit costs and the number of benefits offered.

To test our hypothesis that the low-cost, miscellaneous benefits adversely affect the correlation between benefits and costs, we calculated an IBA excluding miscellaneous benefits and ran the correlation again (see Table 3). We found that Agriculture, Construction, and Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (TCPU) did not have significant correlations between benefits and costs (see Table 1, page 4), while Wholesale Trade and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE) did have significant correlations when miscellaneous benefits were excluded. Table 3 confirms that Wholesale Trade and FIRE provided many miscellaneous benefits. TCPU also provided many miscellaneous benefits, but its correlation was still not significant. That may be the case because there are other low-cost benefits or perhaps employers in TCPU require their

employees to share a larger percentage of the costs related to benefits. The results for Agriculture and Construction may reflect the seasonal nature of those industries. Even though many employers in Agriculture and Construction offer benefits, some employees may never qualify for them due to waiting periods. Construction employees also tend to be younger and may not opt to receive health insurance or pay into a retirement plan, especially if they have to pay part of the cost themselves.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, construction companies may offer many benefits but still have relatively low costs if their employees do not qualify or elect not to participate in the benefit programs.

### Additional Research

We suspect that if the costs of legally required benefits go up, employers may decrease their spending on other benefits. For example, employers may reduce the number of benefits they offer to pay for the increase in legally required benefits. This reduction would lead to a lower IBA and a decrease in costs for voluntary benefits. Another possibility is that employees will be required to pay a larger share of the costs for benefits themselves. This would not change the IBA, but it would reduce costs for voluntary benefits, while increasing the costs for legally required benefits. Future research will compare this year's data with last year's to see if our assumption is correct.

The distinction between mandatory and voluntary benefits, which relies upon statutory criteria, needs additional research. Some benefits may be defined normatively mandatory such as health care. However, time did not permit us to conduct a comprehensive review of the literature that needs to be completed as we begin addressing more extensive questions raised by this initial analysis.

### Conclusion

Overall, the data collected show that as the number of benefits offered by an employer

increases so does the total cost of benefits per employee. This relationship was significant for seven of the ten major industries when miscellaneous benefits were excluded from the analysis. Construction, TCPU, and Agriculture are exceptions to that rule. The difference may be due to the demographic characteristics of the workforce in those industries, which is a topic under study.

Future issues of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* will feature survey updates. If you would like a copy of the survey results when they become available, please call (307) 473-3804 or visit our web site at <http://LMI.state.wy.us/>.

<sup>1</sup>Wyoming Department of Employment, Research &

Planning, *Wyoming Wage Survey: 2000*, January 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment Cost Index - September 2001," *News Release*, October 25, 2001, Table B, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>John W. Ruser, "The Employment Cost Index: What is it?," *Monthly Labor Review*, September 2001, <<http://www.bls.gov/ncs/est/>> (March 1, 2002).

<sup>4</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup>This effort was undertaken jointly with the Research Offices in Nebraska Workforce Development, Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Center and the South Dakota Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Center. Other benefit surveys are conducted by research offices in Oklahoma, Maine, and New Hampshire.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Fourth Quarter 2001

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

"Fremont County's fourth quarter 2001 unemployment rate was 5.2 percent; down from 6.0 percent in 2000."

Regular *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* readers are already familiar with the quarterly information presented for the Covered Employment and Wages program. A new feature in *Trends* is the quarterly data for the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. Monthly data can still be found in every issue of *Trends*. This month's unemployment numbers are located on page 13. - Ed.

During the fourth quarter of 2001, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) employment increased statewide by 4,789 jobs or 1.9 percent when compared to the fourth quarter of 2000 (see the Table, page 8). The increase in employment is one percentage point below the growth between fourth quarter 1999 and fourth quarter 2000. Similarly, the labor force increased by 5,810 individuals or 2.2 percent between the fourth quarter 2000 and fourth quarter 2001, while unemployment increased by 1,021 or 10.9 percent over the same period. The increase in

unemployment is in stark contrast to the 18.6 percent decrease in unemployment between fourth quarter 1999 and fourth quarter 2000. Consequently, the unemployment rate during the fourth quarter 2001 was 3.8 percent, while the unemployment rate during the fourth quarter 2000 was 3.5 percent.

While all regions in Wyoming posted fourth quarter to fourth quarter employment growth, the Northeast region was the largest contributor. In the Northeast region, employment increased 1,863 or 4.3 percent.

**Table: Change in Wyoming's Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rates by Region and County, Fourth Quarter 2001**

REGION/County	Labor Force				Employment				Unemployment				Unemployment Rate		
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change
	2001	2000	Number	Percent	2001	2000	Number	Percent	2001	2000	Number	Percent	2001	2000	
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>46,411</b>	<b>46,092</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>44,221</b>	<b>43,902</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Big Horn	5,966	6,022	-56	-0.9	5,710	5,752	-42	-0.7	256	270	-14	-5.2	4.3	4.5	-0.2
Fremont	18,667	18,210	457	2.5	17,683	17,114	570	3.3	984	1,096	-113	-10.3	5.3	6.0	-0.8
Hot Springs	2,476	2,452	25	1.0	2,370	2,372	-2	-0.1	107	80	27	33.9	4.3	3.2	1.1
Park	14,701	14,670	32	0.2	14,024	14,093	-69	-0.5	677	576	101	17.5	4.6	3.9	0.8
Washakie	4,601	4,739	-139	-2.9	4,434	4,571	-137	-3.0	167	168	-2	-1.0	3.6	3.6	0.0
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>47,172</b>	<b>45,213</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>45,608</b>	<b>43,746</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Campbell	23,132	20,526	2,607	12.7	22,482	19,923	2,560	12.8	650	603	47	7.8	2.8	2.9	-0.1
Crook	2,986	3,178	-192	-6.1	2,879	3,075	-196	-6.4	107	103	3	3.2	3.6	3.3	0.3
Johnson	3,828	4,012	-185	-4.6	3,693	3,917	-224	-5.7	135	96	39	41.1	3.5	2.4	1.1
Sheridan	13,872	14,101	-228	-1.6	13,336	13,574	-238	-1.8	536	527	10	1.8	3.9	3.7	0.2
Weston	3,354	3,396	-43	-1.3	3,218	3,257	-39	-1.2	136	139	-3	-2.4	4.0	4.1	0.0
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>53,570</b>	<b>51,569</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>51,162</b>	<b>49,643</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Lincoln	7,005	6,536	469	7.2	6,596	6,250	346	5.5	409	286	123	42.9	5.8	4.4	1.4
Sublette	3,358	3,223	135	4.2	3,290	3,161	129	4.1	68	62	6	9.7	2.0	1.9	0.1
Sweetwater	20,386	19,894	492	2.5	19,457	19,023	434	2.3	929	871	58	6.7	4.6	4.4	0.1
Teton	11,666	11,323	343	3.0	11,255	11,091	164	1.5	412	232	179	77.2	3.5	2.1	1.5
Uinta	11,155	10,594	561	5.3	10,564	10,118	446	4.4	590	475	115	24.2	5.3	4.5	0.8
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>74,085</b>	<b>73,267</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>71,871</b>	<b>71,470</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Albany	19,601	19,229	372	1.9	19,241	18,929	312	1.6	360	299	61	20.3	1.8	1.6	0.2
Goshen	6,547	6,811	-264	-3.9	6,375	6,647	-273	-4.1	172	164	8	5.1	2.6	2.4	0.3
Laramie	42,256	41,150	1,106	2.7	40,765	40,028	737	1.8	1,491	1,122	369	32.9	3.5	2.7	0.8
Niobrara	1,236	1,305	-69	-5.3	1,197	1,263	-66	-5.2	38	42	-3	-8.0	3.1	3.2	-0.1
Platte	4,446	4,772	-326	-6.8	4,293	4,602	-310	-6.7	153	170	-16	-9.6	3.4	3.6	-0.2
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>50,358</b>	<b>49,646</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>48,366</b>	<b>47,681</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Carbon	8,215	8,263	-49	-0.6	7,820	7,927	-107	-1.3	395	336	58	17.3	4.8	4.1	0.7
Converse	6,492	6,983	-491	-7.0	6,261	6,713	-452	-6.7	231	270	-39	-14.3	3.6	3.9	-0.3
Natrona	35,651	34,400	1,251	3.6	34,285	33,041	1,244	3.8	1,366	1,359	7	0.5	3.8	4.0	-0.2
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>271,597</b>	<b>265,787</b>	<b>5,810</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>261,230</b>	<b>256,441</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>10,366</b>	<b>9,345</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Due to the growth in the Mining industry, Campbell County's employment growth of 12.9 percent (2,560 jobs) offset employment losses in all other counties in the region.

The statewide increase in unemployment was driven by the Southwest region where job losses increased by 481 or 25 percent from the fourth quarter 2000 to fourth quarter 2001. Teton County led the region and the state with increased unemployment of 179 or 77.2 percent. The job losses were mainly accounted for in eating & drinking places (SIC 58), hotels & other lodging places (SIC 70), and amusement & recreation services (SIC 79) industries.

The most dramatic quarter to quarter changes in the unemployment rates were found in Teton County and Fremont County. The fourth quarter 2001 unemployment rate in Teton County was 3.6 percent; up from the 2000 level of 2.1 percent. Fremont County's fourth quarter 2001 unemployment rate was 5.2 percent; down from 6.0 percent in 2000. Fremont County's decrease in the unemployment rate was driven by a 10.3 percent decrease in the number of unemployed (or 113 jobs) and a 3.3 percent increase in employment (or 570 jobs).



(Continued from page 7)

<sup>6</sup>The following are the four groups of compensation costs for which information is requested and examples of some of the items included in each group:

- Wages and salaries - including overtime
- Retirement costs - 401k, pension plans
- Legally required benefits - Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation
- Miscellaneous costs - uniform allowance, child care, insurance

For more information, see Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Employee Benefits in Wyoming: 2000*, June 2001.

<sup>7</sup>The Index of Benefits Availability (IBA) is the sum of the number of benefits offered by a company weighted by full- and part-time employment. For an example of how the IBA is calculated:

	Number of <u>Employees</u>	Number of <u>Benefits</u>	
Full-time	8	5	80% * 5 = 4
Part-time	2	3	20% * 3 = .6
IBA			4.6

<sup>8</sup>If funds become available, it would be beneficial to conduct small sample verification.

<sup>9</sup>The Employment Cost Index may be used as a proxy.

<sup>10</sup>Douglas W. Leonard, "Wyoming's Workforce: Growing Older Faster?," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, December 2001, pp. 5-13.



## Local Area Occupational Wage Estimates Are Now Available

Research & Planning is pleased to announce the electronic publication of *Wyoming Regional and County Occupational Wage Projections*. These are now available at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/eds2000/TOC000.htm>. To localize the occupational wage and employment estimates resulting from Wyoming's annual Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey, we are using a new Bureau of Labor Statistics application called the Estimates Delivery System (EDS). EDS will help us bridge the 15-month lag time that occurs between completion of the employer survey and subsequent analysis and publication of the results. Our new capability will permit us to project survey results forward to help employers, job seekers, and others make useful inferences about staffing and wage patterns in their local areas. Because random sampling was conducted only at the regional and Metropolitan Statistical Area levels, individuals should view county-level data more critically.



## State Unemployment Rates January 2002 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
Oregon	9.1
Washington	8.2
Alaska	7.5
District of Columbia	6.9
Idaho	6.9
Louisiana	6.9
Mississippi	6.9
North Carolina	6.9
Nevada	6.8
California	6.7
Illinois	6.6
Kentucky	6.4
New Mexico	6.3
New York	6.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Pennsylvania	6.1
West Virginia	6.1
Colorado	6.0
Tennessee	6.0
Texas	6.0
Arkansas	5.9
South Carolina	5.9
Rhode Island	5.8
Wisconsin	5.8
Ohio	5.7
Arizona	5.6
Florida	5.6
Indiana	5.5
Alabama	5.4
Missouri	5.3
Montana	5.3
New Jersey	5.3
Utah	5.3
Maryland	5.1
Massachusetts	5.0
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Kansas	4.9
Minnesota	4.9
Hawaii	4.8
Maine	4.8
Vermont	4.7
Oklahoma	4.6
New Hampshire	4.5
Delaware	4.4
Georgia	4.4
Virginia	4.4
Iowa	4.3
Connecticut	4.0
South Dakota	3.9
Nebraska	3.8
North Dakota	3.8
Michigan	Not Available

### State Unemployment Rates January 2002 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.1
Oregon	8.0
Washington	7.5
District of Columbia	6.7
Mississippi	6.4
North Carolina	6.4
California	6.2
Nevada	6.2
New Mexico	6.0
Alaska	5.9
Illinois	5.9
Louisiana	5.9
Arizona	5.8
Colorado	5.7
Idaho	5.7
New York	5.7
Texas	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.6
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Kentucky	5.4
South Carolina	5.4
Tennessee	5.4
Alabama	5.3
Florida	5.2
Utah	5.2
West Virginia	5.1
Wisconsin	5.1
Indiana	5.0
Ohio	5.0
Rhode Island	5.0
New Jersey	4.9
Arkansas	4.8
Hawaii	4.7
Maryland	4.7
Missouri	4.7
Georgia	4.5
Massachusetts	4.4
Kansas	4.3
Montana	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Virginia	4.2
Minnesota	4.1
New Hampshire	4.0
Maine	3.9
Delaware	3.8
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Vermont	3.7
Connecticut	3.5
Nebraska	3.4
Iowa	3.3
South Dakota	3.1
North Dakota	2.8
Michigan	Not Available

## Employment Growth Rebounds in January

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming job growth increased from 1.9 percent in December 2001 to 2.4 percent in January 2002, and the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.2 percent to 3.8 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate also fell in January, dropping from 5.8 percent to 5.6 percent, its first decrease in several months.

From December to January, Wyoming employment fell by 4,500 jobs (1.8%). This over-the-month seasonal decline in employment is seen in most years as retailers lay off extra Christmas help, construction work slows, and Local Government sheds jobs. In 2001, approximately 5,400 jobs were lost, and in 1999, about 6,000 jobs were lost. This year's decrease is smaller than previous years', signaling an improvement in Wyoming's employment situation.

When compared with January 2001, growth was seen across Wyoming's economy. An estimated 5,500 nonagricultural wage and salary jobs were gained for a growth rate of 2.4 percent. Mining (including oil & gas extraction) continued to dominate Wyoming's job growth, with a gain of 2,200 jobs (12.5%). Coal mining grew by 600 jobs (13.6%). Services gained 1,600 jobs (3.0%), including 400 jobs in auto & miscellaneous repair, 500 jobs in health services, and 400 jobs in private social services. Despite losing jobs when compared with December, Government employment increased by 1,200 jobs (2.0%) when compared with January 2001. Three-quarters of the Government increase was in Local Government, which includes school districts, community colleges, and county hospitals.

Manufacturing employment remained 200 jobs (1.8%) below its year-ago level. Employment fell by 200 jobs in Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities. Within Retail Trade, department stores fell by 200 jobs and food stores fell by 200 jobs. However, these job losses were more than offset by gains in other Retail Trade industries including building materials & garden supplies, auto dealers & service stations, and eating & drinking places.

As expected, most county unemployment rates increased from December to January. Washakie County and Goshen County had large increases in unemployment because of layoffs in Manufacturing. Washakie County's unemployment rate climbed from 3.9 percent in December to 6.5 percent in January while Goshen County's rate increased from 3.0 percent to 5.0 percent. Johnson County, Niobrara County, and Teton County all had lower unemployment rates in January than in December.

Lincoln County had the highest unemployment rate in January (7.7%), followed by Fremont County (7.6%) and Carbon County (6.9%). Teton County had the lowest unemployment rate (2.9%), but it was up significantly from January 2001 (1.5%).

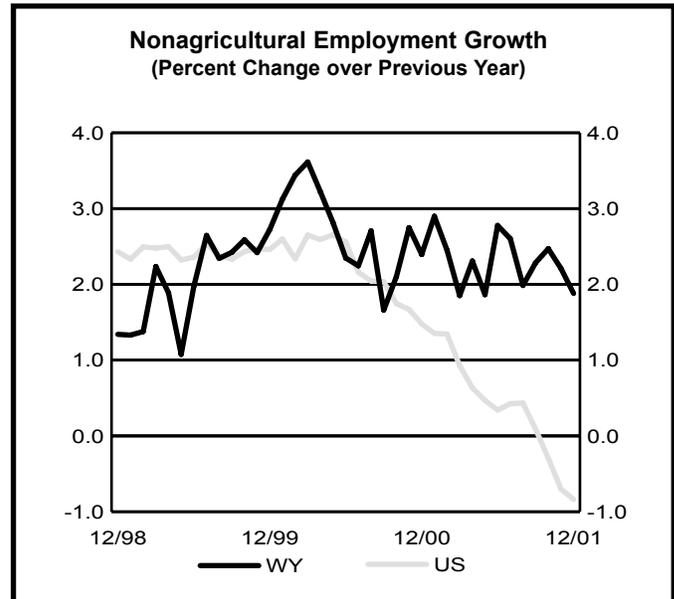


# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment<sup>1</sup>

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Despite losing jobs when compared with December 2001, Government employment increased in January 2002 by 1,200 jobs (2.0%) when compared with January 2001.”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment			
	JAN02(p)	DEC01(b)	JAN01	JAN 02		JAN 01	JAN02(p)	DEC01(b)	JAN02	JAN 02	
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	239.3	243.8	233.8	-1.8	2.4	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	37.6	38.3	36.9	-1.8	1.9
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	46.0	47.0	43.9	-2.1	4.8	<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	3.5	3.7	3.7	-5.4	-5.4
Mining	19.8	19.7	17.6	0.5	12.5	Mining & Construction	1.9	2.1	2.0	-9.5	-5.0
Coal Mining	5.0	5.0	4.4	0.0	13.6	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	11.9	11.9	10.2	0.0	16.7	<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	34.1	34.6	33.2	-1.4	2.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	3.4	3.5	2.9	-2.9	17.2	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3
Oil & Gas Field Services	8.5	8.4	7.3	1.2	16.4	Trade	8.9	9.2	8.7	-3.3	2.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.1	16.1	15.0	-6.2	0.7	Retail Trade	8.0	8.3	7.8	-3.6	2.6
General Building Contractors	3.5	3.8	3.8	-7.9	-7.9	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.8	1.7	5.6	11.8
Heavy Construction	4.1	4.5	4.0	-8.9	2.5	Services	8.3	8.5	8.0	-2.4	3.8
Special Trade Construction	7.5	7.8	7.2	-3.8	4.2	Total Government	12.1	12.2	11.8	-0.8	2.5
Manufacturing	11.1	11.2	11.3	-0.9	-1.8	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0	State Government	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	6.0	6.1	6.2	-1.6	-3.2	Local Government	6.0	6.1	5.8	-1.6	3.4
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.2	0.0						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	<b>NATRONA COUNTY*</b>					
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	193.3	196.8	189.9	-1.8	1.8	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	32.4	33.4	31.6	-3.0	2.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.0	14.1	14.2	-0.7	-1.4	<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	5.8	5.9	5.5	-1.7	5.5
Transportation	9.2	9.3	9.3	-1.1	-1.1	Mining	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3	Construction	1.9	1.9	1.7	0.0	11.8
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.8	3.7	-2.6	0.0	Manufacturing	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	<b>TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	26.6	27.5	26.1	-3.3	1.9
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	Communications & Public Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Trade	53.1	54.8	52.7	-3.1	0.8	Trade	8.7	8.9	8.6	-2.2	1.2
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.9	7.8	-1.3	0.0	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	4.6	4.7	4.5	-2.1	2.2	Retail Trade	6.3	6.5	6.2	-3.1	1.6
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-3.0	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Retail Trade	45.3	46.9	44.9	-3.4	0.9	Services	9.5	9.9	9.3	-4.0	2.2
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.0	2.1	1.8	-4.8	11.1	Personal & Business Services	2.0	2.1	2.0	-4.8	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	5.2	5.7	5.3	-8.8	-1.9	Health Services	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Department Stores	4.3	4.9	4.5	-12.2	-4.4	Government	5.5	5.8	5.5	-5.2	0.0
Food Stores	5.0	5.1	5.2	-2.0	-3.8	Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.2	8.3	8.0	-1.2	2.5	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Gas Stations	4.3	4.3	4.1	0.0	4.9	Local Government	4.2	4.5	4.2	-6.7	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7	Local Education	2.9	3.1	2.9	-6.5	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0						
Eating & Drinking Places	16.1	16.6	16.0	-3.0	0.6						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.8	6.0	5.7	-3.3	1.8						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.5	8.4	8.1	1.2	4.9						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4						
Depository Institutions	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9						
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0						
Services	55.6	55.9	54.0	-0.5	3.0						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.3	7.3	7.2	0.0	1.4						
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0						
Business Services	8.1	8.3	8.2	-2.4	-1.2						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.4	3.4	3.0	0.0	13.3						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.8	3.6	3.9	5.6	-2.6						
Health Services	11.7	11.8	11.2	-0.8	4.5						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.9	2.9	2.6	0.0	11.5						
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3						
Social Services	6.6	6.6	6.2	0.0	6.5						
Membership Organizations	3.7	3.8	3.6	-2.6	2.8						
Engineering & Management	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4						
Government	62.1	63.6	60.9	-2.4	2.0						
Total Federal Government	7.0	7.2	6.7	-2.8	4.5						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	14.0	14.3	14.0	-2.1	0.0						
State Education	5.3	5.7	5.3	-7.0	0.0						
Total Local Government	41.1	42.1	40.2	-2.4	2.2						
Local Hospitals	5.6	5.5	5.3	1.8	5.7						
Local Education	22.8	23.6	22.5	-3.4	1.3						



<sup>1</sup> Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted.

\* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Subject to revision. (b) Benchmarked.

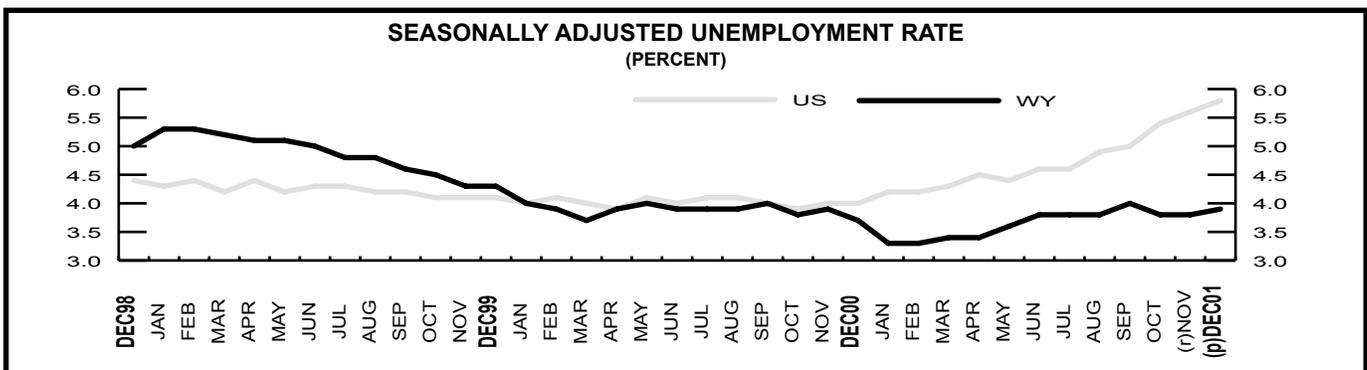
# Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistician

“The number of people in the U.S. working part-time for economic reasons increased 21.0 percent from January 2001 to January 2002. This includes workers whose hours were reduced or who were unable to find full-time employment.”

	January 2002 (p)	December 2001 (r)	January 2001 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	265,708	269,881	263,491	-1.5	0.8
Unemployed	13,287	11,513	12,342	15.4	7.7
Employed	252,421	258,368	250,849	-2.3	0.6
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.0%/3.8%	4.3%/4.2%	4.8%/3.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	6.3%/5.6%	5.4%/5.8%	4.7%/4.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,953,000	7,319,000	7,134,000	-5.0	-2.5
As a percent of all workers	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	319,000	344,000	303,000	-7.3	13.5
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,470,000	4,388,000	3,693,000	1.9	21.0
<b>Hours &amp; Earnings for Production Workers</b>					
<b>Wyoming Mining</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$861.13	\$920.32	\$824.76	-6.4	4.4
Average Weekly Hours	41.5	43.7	41.3	-5.0	0.5
<b>U.S. Mining Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$760.87	\$771.49	\$750.98	-1.4	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	42.2	43.1	42.5	-2.1	-0.7
<b>Wyoming Manufacturing Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$605.90	\$627.13	\$651.68	-3.4	-7.0
Average Weekly Hours	36.5	38.1	39.4	-4.2	-7.4
<b>U.S. Manufacturing Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$612.87	\$627.35	\$596.73	-2.3	2.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	41.3	40.9	-2.2	-1.2
<b>Wyoming Unemployment Insurance</b>					
Weeks Compensated (2)	20,212	12,433	17,937	62.6	12.7
Benefits Paid	\$4,417,935	\$2,666,133	\$3,725,351	65.7	18.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$218.58	\$214.44	\$207.69	1.9	5.2
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	212,335	218,888	209,287	-3.0	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.2%	1.8%	2.0%	N/A	N/A
<b>Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b> (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	177.1	176.7	175.1	0.2	1.1
Food & Beverages	176.2	175.2	171.4	0.6	2.8
Housing	177.6	176.9	174.1	0.4	2.0
Apparel	120.4	123.7	125.4	-2.7	-4.0
Transportation	148.6	148.5	154.4	0.1	-3.8
Medical Care	279.6	277.3	267.1	0.8	4.7
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	105.7	105.3	104.1	0.4	1.5
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	107.2	106.9	103.9	0.3	3.2
Other Goods & Services	287.2	286.4	275.9	0.3	4.1
<b>Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Commodities	128.5	140.0	134.2	-8.2	-4.2
<b>Wyoming Building Permits</b>					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	104	98	90	6.1	15.6
Valuation	\$9,466,000	\$13,031,000	\$10,275,000	-27.4	-7.9

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



# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“Washakie County and Goshen County had large increases in unemployment because of layoffs in Manufacturing.”

REGION County	Labor Force		Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate			
	Jan 2002 (p)	Dec 2001 (b)	Jan 2001 (b)									
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>45,098</b>	<b>45,664</b>	<b>45,064</b>	<b>42,013</b>	<b>43,146</b>	<b>42,012</b>	<b>3,085</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Big Horn	5,801	5,835	5,783	5,431	5,544	5,434	370	291	349	6.4	5.0	6.0
Fremont	18,340	18,489	18,142	16,937	17,353	16,564	1,403	1,136	1,578	7.6	6.1	8.7
Hot Springs	2,373	2,455	2,304	2,228	2,326	2,196	145	129	108	6.1	5.3	4.7
Park	14,029	14,352	14,222	13,156	13,569	13,392	873	783	830	6.2	5.5	5.8
Washakie	4,555	4,533	4,613	4,261	4,354	4,426	294	179	187	6.5	3.9	4.1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>45,891</b>	<b>46,774</b>	<b>44,684</b>	<b>44,087</b>	<b>45,068</b>	<b>42,678</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Campbell	22,955	23,105	21,130	22,211	22,441	20,401	744	664	729	3.2	2.9	3.5
Crook	2,772	2,895	2,834	2,638	2,764	2,687	134	131	147	4.8	4.5	5.2
Johnson	3,550	3,697	3,614	3,410	3,545	3,460	140	152	154	3.9	4.1	4.3
Sheridan	13,349	13,771	13,830	12,712	13,150	13,061	637	621	769	4.8	4.5	5.6
Weston	3,265	3,306	3,276	3,116	3,168	3,069	149	138	207	4.6	4.2	6.3
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>52,359</b>	<b>53,460</b>	<b>51,958</b>	<b>49,539</b>	<b>50,876</b>	<b>49,703</b>	<b>2,820</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Lincoln	6,695	6,869	6,271	6,181	6,421	5,862	514	448	409	7.7	6.5	6.5
Sublette	3,099	3,216	3,061	3,008	3,149	2,984	91	67	77	2.9	2.1	2.5
Sweetwater	19,926	20,491	20,317	18,793	19,458	19,238	1,133	1,033	1,079	5.7	5.0	5.3
Teton	11,799	11,824	11,707	11,454	11,407	11,536	345	417	171	2.9	3.5	1.5
Uinta	10,840	11,060	10,602	10,103	10,441	10,083	737	619	519	6.8	5.6	4.9
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>72,923</b>	<b>73,916</b>	<b>72,469</b>	<b>70,046</b>	<b>71,442</b>	<b>69,647</b>	<b>2,877</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Albany	19,110	19,601	19,031	18,678	19,182	18,561	432	419	470	2.3	2.1	2.5
Goshen	6,169	6,371	6,245	5,862	6,183	5,904	307	188	341	5.0	3.0	5.5
Laramie	42,205	42,416	41,802	40,339	40,780	40,079	1,866	1,636	1,723	4.4	3.9	4.1
Niobrara	1,141	1,181	1,173	1,094	1,129	1,103	47	52	70	4.1	4.4	6.0
Platte	4,298	4,347	4,218	4,073	4,168	4,000	225	179	218	5.2	4.1	5.2
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>49,438</b>	<b>50,066</b>	<b>49,318</b>	<b>46,735</b>	<b>47,834</b>	<b>46,808</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Carbon	7,899	8,012	8,012	7,351	7,557	7,555	548	455	457	6.9	5.7	5.7
Converse	6,222	6,342	6,734	5,895	6,082	6,371	327	260	363	5.3	4.1	5.4
Natrona	35,317	35,712	34,572	33,489	34,195	32,882	1,828	1,517	1,690	5.2	4.2	4.9
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>265,708</b>	<b>269,881</b>	<b>263,491</b>	<b>252,421</b>	<b>258,368</b>	<b>250,849</b>	<b>13,287</b>	<b>11,513</b>	<b>12,642</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										3.8	4.2	3.6
U.S.....										6.3	5.4	4.7
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.6	5.8	4.2

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

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

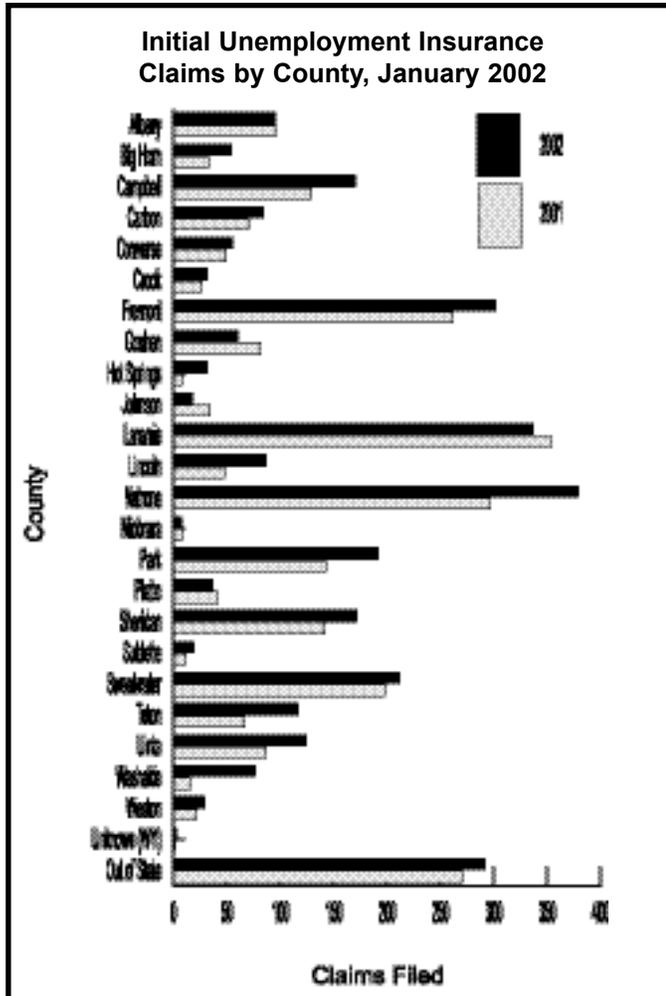
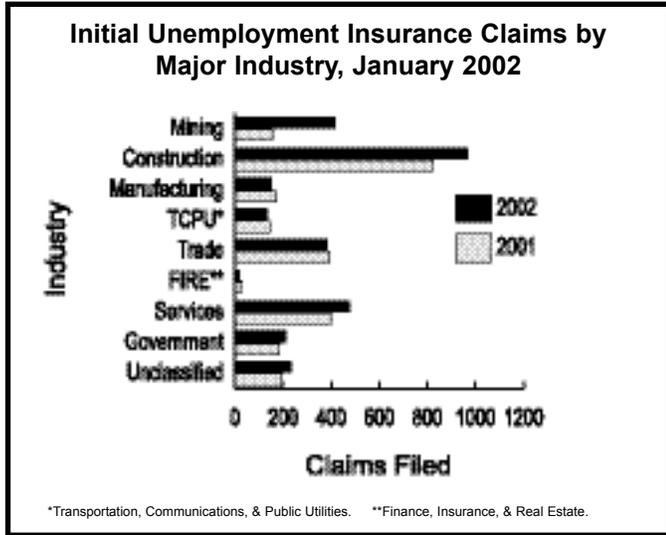
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2001 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.4 to 4.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Mark A. Harris, Sociologist, Ph.D.

“Total statewide initial claims were up in January by 486 claims over the prior year. Claims in oil & gas extraction account for 58 percent of this increase.”



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Jan 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,978	2,765	2,492	7.7	19.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,535	1,494	1,155	2.7	32.9
Mining	417	309	156	35.0	167.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	385	257	104	49.8	270.2
Construction	965	1,000	824	-3.5	17.1
Manufacturing	153	185	175	-17.3	-12.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,212	1,045	1,141	16.0	6.2
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	133	109	143	22.0	-7.0
Transportation	104	94	107	10.6	-2.8
Communications & Public Utilities	29	15	36	93.3	-19.4
Trade	380	309	391	23.0	-2.8
Wholesale Trade	42	41	47	2.4	-10.6
Retail Trade	338	268	344	26.1	-1.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	16	15	23	6.7	-30.4
Services	474	418	399	13.4	18.8
Personal & Business Services	160	152	112	5.3	42.9
Health Services	25	28	37	-10.7	-32.4
Government	209	194	185	7.7	13.0
Local Government	78	74	63	5.4	23.8
Local Education	10	22	23	-54.5	-56.5
UNCLASSIFIED	231	226	196	2.2	17.9

LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	339	357	355	-5.0	-4.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	148	184	146	-19.6	1.4
Mining	3	8	3	-62.5	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	130	153	122	-15.0	6.6
Manufacturing	15	23	21	-34.8	-28.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	171	151	179	13.2	-4.5
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	25	31	51	-19.4	-51.0
Transportation	15	22	22	-31.8	-31.8
Communications & Public Utilities	10	9	29	11.1	-65.5
Trade	64	42	64	52.4	0.0
Wholesale Trade	6	8	4	-25.0	50.0
Retail Trade	58	34	60	70.6	-3.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	2	4	2	-50.0	0.0
Services	63	63	46	0.0	37.0
Personal & Business Services	32	32	23	0.0	39.1
Health Services	3	8	9	-62.5	-66.7
Government	17	11	16	54.5	6.3
Local Government	7	5	7	40.0	0.0
Local Education	1	2	3	-50.0	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	20	22	30	-9.1	-33.3

NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	379	407	297	-6.9	27.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	213	258	153	-17.4	39.2
Mining	65	55	26	18.2	150
Oil & Gas Extraction	60	54	22	11.1	172.7
Construction	132	179	110	-26.3	20
Manufacturing	16	24	17	-33.3	-5.9
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	156	136	134	14.7	16.4
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	15	10	15	50	0
Transportation	12	10	12	20	0
Communications & Public Utilities	3	0	3	0	0
Trade	56	53	47	5.7	19.1
Wholesale Trade	8	6	12	33.3	-33.3
Retail Trade	48	47	35	2.1	37.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	3	1	5	200	-40
Services	69	65	54	6.2	27.8
Personal & Business Services	28	22	16	27.3	75
Health Services	3	10	6	-70	-50
Government	13	7	13	85.7	0
Local Government	10	2	3	400	233.3
Local Education	3	1	0	200	0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	13	10	-23.1	0

# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Mark A. Harris, Sociologist, Ph.D.

“Total statewide continued claims in January were up by 9.7 percent over the prior year.”

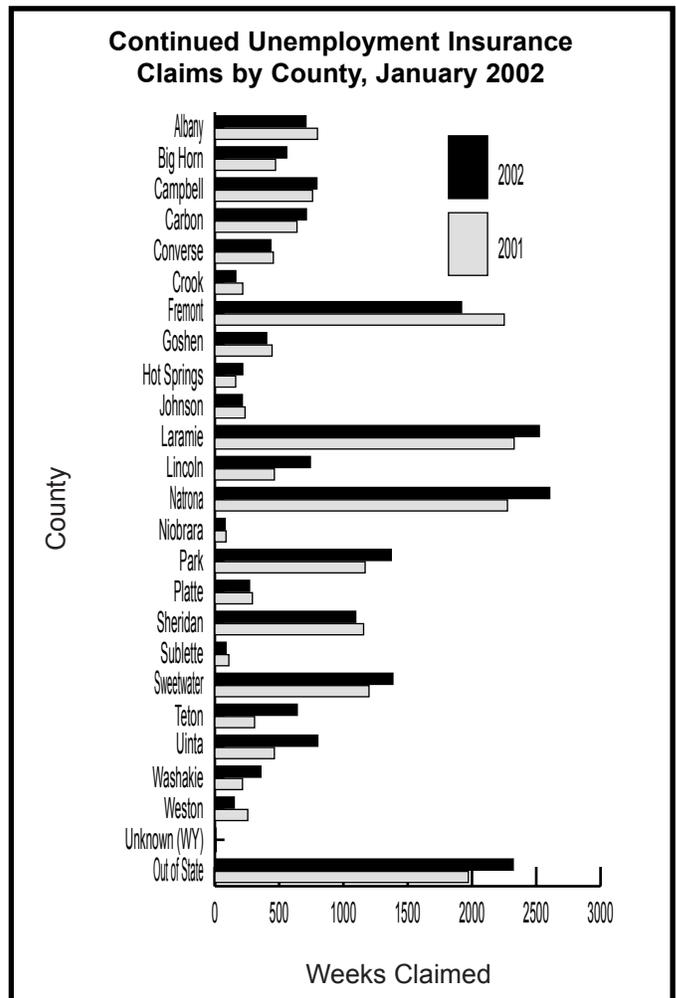
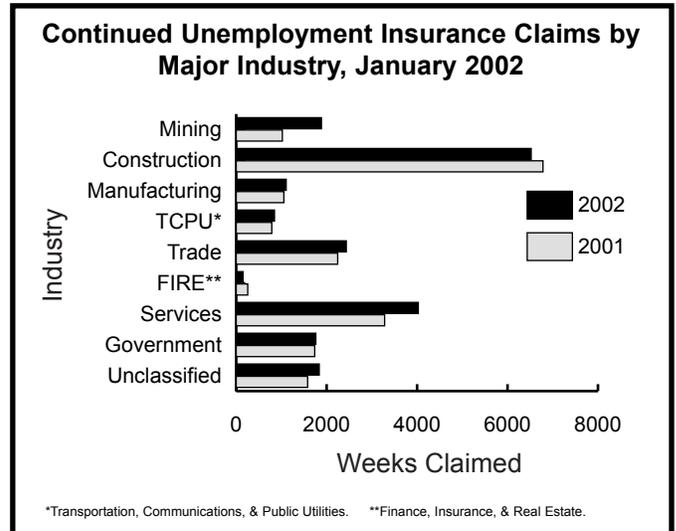
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	Jan 02	Dec 01	Jan 01	Jan 02	Jan 02
	TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	20,567	15,952	18,741	28.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,761	5,311	5,362	8.5	7.4
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	9,512	6,321	8,858	50.5	7.4
Mining	1,884	1,408	1,020	33.8	84.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,563	1,166	551	34.0	183.7
Construction	6,523	4,215	6,784	54.8	-3.8
Manufacturing	1,105	698	1,054	58.3	4.8
<b>TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING</b>	9,219	8,107	8,304	13.7	11.0
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	846	648	787	30.6	7.5
Transportation	670	509	545	31.6	22.9
Communications & Public Utilities	176	139	242	26.6	-27.3
Trade	2,434	2,030	2,244	19.9	8.5
Wholesale Trade	378	325	290	16.3	30.3
Retail Trade	2,056	1,705	1,954	20.6	5.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	152	170	255	-10.6	-40.4
Services	4,026	3,826	3,282	5.2	22.7
Personal & Business Services	1,296	1,075	979	20.6	32.4
Health Services	258	270	246	-4.4	4.9
Government	1,761	1,433	1,736	22.9	1.4
Local Government	559	422	476	32.5	17.4
Local Education	117	78	117	50.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	1,836	1,524	1,579	20.5	16.3

**LARAMIE COUNTY**

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,525	1,888	2,328	33.7	8.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	698	631	688	10.6	1.5
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	1,106	736	1,113	50.3	-0.6
Mining	20	10	50	100.0	-60.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	10	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	966	653	944	47.9	2.3
Manufacturing	120	73	119	64.4	0.8
<b>TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING</b>	1,242	1,009	1,073	23.1	15.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	208	143	213	45.5	-2.3
Transportation	129	86	101	50.0	27.7
Communications & Public Utilities	79	57	112	38.6	-29.5
Trade	373	294	289	26.9	29.1
Wholesale Trade	47	48	36	-2.1	30.6
Retail Trade	326	246	253	32.5	28.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	40	60	59	-33.3	-32.2
Services	445	361	407	23.3	9.3
Personal & Business Services	218	168	170	29.8	28.2
Health Services	36	34	62	5.9	-41.9
Government	176	151	105	16.6	67.6
Local Government	46	29	24	58.6	91.7
Local Education	14	11	10	27.3	40.0
UNCLASSIFIED	177	143	142	23.8	24.6

**NATRONA COUNTY**

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,605	1,825	2,275	42.7	14.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	753	642	687	17.3	9.6
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	1,376	901	1,170	52.7	17.6
Mining	322	269	171	19.7	88.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	293	247	129	18.6	127.1
Construction	934	549	912	70.1	2.4
Manufacturing	120	83	87	44.6	37.9
<b>TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING</b>	1,135	844	1,017	34.5	11.6
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	105	69	111	52.2	-5.4
Transportation	88	54	56	63.0	57.1
Communications & Public Utilities	17	15	55	13.3	-69.1
Trade	403	292	289	38.0	39.4
Wholesale Trade	90	97	59	-7.2	52.5
Retail Trade	313	195	230	60.5	36.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	17	10	36	70.0	-52.8
Services	512	408	415	25.5	23.4
Personal & Business Services	202	175	154	15.4	31.2
Health Services	58	62	52	-6.5	11.5
Government	98	65	166	50.8	-41.0
Local Government	55	40	33	37.5	66.7
Local Education	13	12	12	8.3	8.3
UNCLASSIFIED	94	80	88	17.5	6.8



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