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TRENDS

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Wyoming's New Business Formation in 2006 and 2007

by: Sherry Y. Wen, Senior Economist

The number of new firms in Wyoming during 2006 and 2007 reached record highs, although the over-the-year rate of increase slowed significantly in 2007. Fewer new mining firms opened for business in 2007 than in 2006, but mining was still the fourth largest job provider and the second largest wage generator among all industries' new firms.

From 2005 to 2007, Wyoming's economy experienced the fastest growth in more than a decade (see Figure 1, page 5). The state's average annual employment grew by 3.3% (8,109 jobs) in 2005, 4.2% (10,708 jobs) in 2006, and 4.1% (10,864 jobs) in 2007. Total wages grew by 9.3% ($717 million), 15.6% ($1.3 billion), and 11.4% ($1.1 billion), respectively. The pace of employment and total wage growth slowed markedly in 2007 compared to 2006, yet 2007 still had the second fastest growth in more than a decade.

Economic expansion is caused by growth in existing firms and the creation of new businesses. New businesses contribute fresh opportunities to the economy, such as additional jobs, wages, and tax revenue for the state and for local communities. The industry distribution of new firms may indicate emerging directions of economic growth. This article focuses on new business formation during the period of significant economic growth in 2006 and 2007.

Business Formation

In this article, a *new business* is defined as a business not previously in existence that actively provides goods or services and hires and pays wages to employees (Wen, 2005). New branches of existing firms or the

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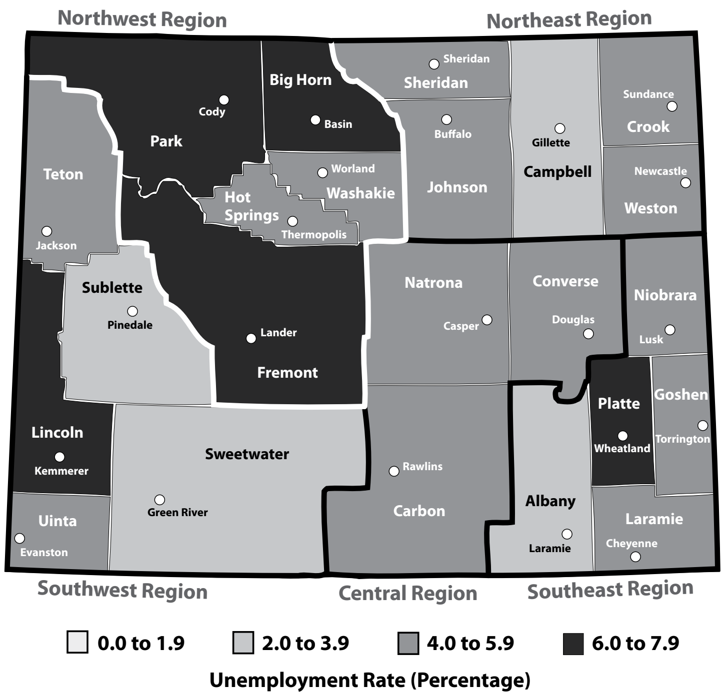
HIGHLIGHTS

- **In trying to reconcile January's large increase in unemployment insurance claims with the relatively stable Current Employment Statistics (CES) data, analysts wondered if there were quality issues with the employment data reported to the CES program. . . . *page 3***
- **Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.2% (as revised) in December to 3.7% in January. The over-the-year job growth rate slowed to 2.2% in January, down from 2.8% (as revised) in December. . . . *page 16***

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, January 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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FEBRUARY *TRENDS* PAGINATION ISSUES
Due to a printing error, some improperly paginated copies of February *Trends* were mailed. If you received one of these copies, please contact Phil Ellsworth: pellsw@state.wy.us, (307) 473-3818.

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Methodological Note: A Caution Regarding Employer Reports to the Current Employment Statistics Program

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program is a monthly survey of employers. Reports from this sample of employers are used to make estimates of employment by sector (e.g., natural resources & mining, construction, manufacturing). Employment across the sectors is summed to equal total nonagricultural employment. Both the sector-level estimates and the total are available for states, the nation, and selected metropolitan areas, and are widely used as economic indicators. Estimates for Wyoming are found on page 18 of this issue of *Trends*. Each year, CES estimates are revised to incorporate data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages in a process known as benchmarking.

In trying to reconcile January's large increase in unemployment insurance (UI) claims with the relatively stable CES employment data, analysts wondered if there were quality issues with the employment data reported to the CES program. Specifically, they suspected some employers might put their workers on a temporary (job-attached) layoff and still count them as employed in the CES survey.

In theory, a firm could accurately report stable employment to CES each month, but still generate claims activity. In other words, the same individuals may not be filling the same jobs month after month.

Analysts combined the UI claims files for the first four weeks of 2009 and found that 1,471 individuals filed initial claims with a job-attached status. There were 53 firms with at least five initial job-attached claims filed against them during this period.

Of these 53 firms, 14 had CES-matched sample data (employment reported for both December 2008 and January 2009). This allowed analysts to compare the number of UI claims to the change in employment from December to January. The Table (see page 4) shows the employer-level data for these 14 firms. At seven firms the net decrease in employment was larger than the number of UI claims. This was what analysts normally expect, because not all individuals who lose their jobs file a claim. At one firm, the number of UI claims exactly matched the net decrease in employment (there were eight initial claims and employment decreased by eight jobs).

At the remaining six firms, there were more UI claims than one might expect by looking at the decrease in employment. Thus, there is some basis to believe that firms may sometimes put their employees on temporary layoff and still count them as employed in the CES survey. The most extreme case involved 53 job-attached

Table: Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims in January 2009 and Over-the-Month Employment Change as Reported to the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Program by Wyoming Firms

	Job-Attached Initial Claims	January Over-the-Month Change in CES Employment	Claims Plus Change in Employment
Firm 1	27	-111	-84
Firm 2	7	-42	-35
Firm 3	5	-18	-13
Firm 4	6	-16	-10
Firm 5	5	-11	-6
Firm 6	6	-12	-6
Firm 7	7	-10	-3
Firm 8	8	-8	0
Firm 9	22	-21	1
Firm 10	7	-5	2
Firm 11	13	-7	6
Firm 12	14	0	14
Firm 13	40	-22	18
Firm 14	53	-34	19

initial UI claims filed against an employer whose employment decreased by 34 jobs. At another employer, there were 40 claimants, but employment only decreased by 22 jobs. Finally, there were 14 claimants at an employer that reported no change in employment from December to January.

Of course, there are alternative explanations. The CES program asks respondents for a count of jobs at a point in time. In theory, a firm could accurately report stable employment to CES each month, but still generate claims activity. In other words, the same individuals may not be filling the same jobs month after month. However, as there are costs to both hiring and laying off employees, many firms attempt to minimize turnover.

Further, the reference periods are not the same. The CES reference period is the payroll period including the 12th of the month, but Research & Planning somewhat arbitrarily used four weeks of UI claims. There is no requirement that workers immediately file a UI claim upon being laid off. Some may delay filing for various reasons.

Data users would be wise to take UI claims activity into account when evaluating the CES estimates. Large increases in claims generally suggest a decrease in employment.

Fortunately, the CES sample is large enough (approximately 1,500 employers) that reporting errors at a handful of firms will not have much effect on total employment estimates. Still, potential reporting errors in the CES program represent an important area for future research.

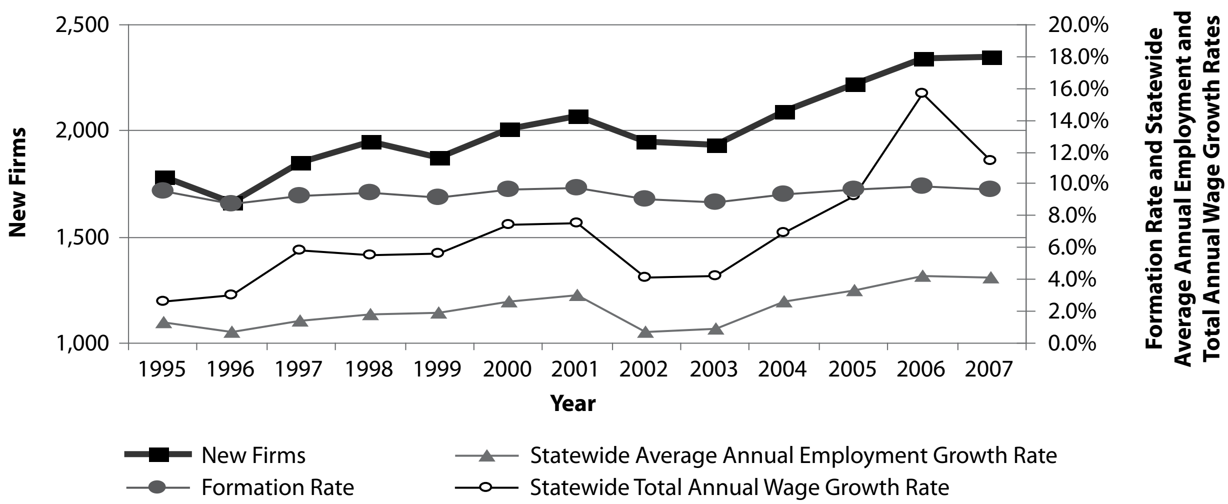

Figure 1: Wyoming New Business Formation, Average Annual Employment Growth, and Total Annual Wage Growth, 1995-2007

(Text continued from page 1)

reopening of firms after temporarily closing (up to eight quarters) are not defined as new businesses for purposes of this research.

A total of 2,342 new firms opened in Wyoming during 2006, 124 more than in 2005. Another 2,352 new businesses opened in 2007, only 10 more than in the previous year. Both years had a record high number of new firms, but the over-the-year change in new business formation slowed significantly in 2007 (only 0.43%). During the previous three years, the over-the-year change was 8.4% in 2004, 5.9% in 2005, and 5.6% in 2006. This significant slowdown was consistent with the statewide employment and total wage changes mentioned previously.

The *business formation rate* was calculated as the number of new firms divided by the sum of existing and new firms. The rate was 9.8% in 2006 and 9.6% in 2007. Figure 1 shows that the formation rate was relatively stable regardless of overall economic expansion or contraction (between 8.8% and 9.8% over the past 13 years) and was affected only slightly by the rate of economic growth. This is consistent with results of national research (Sadeghi, 2008) showing that the annual U.S. new business formation rate was between 11.9% and 13.5% with an overall downward trend for the same 13-year period.

New firms provided 9,677 initial jobs in 2006 and 10,475 jobs in 2007 (see Table 1, page 6). These represented 3.6% and 3.8% of average statewide employment, respectively. Initial jobs are defined as the highest average quarterly employment during the first two quarters a firm is in business. New firms also contributed $175.7 million and $214.9 million in associated total wages, representing 1.8% and 2.0% of state total wages for 2006 and 2007, respectively.

The following analysis focuses on 2007

(Text continued on page 7)

Table 1: Wyoming New Firms, Associated Initial Jobs,[a] and Wages by Region and County, 2006 and 2007

Regions and Counties	2006						2007					
	New Firms		Initial Jobs		Total Wages		New Firms		Initial Jobs		Total Wages	
	N	%	N	%	$	%	N	%	N	%	$	%
NORTHWEST	**339**	**14.5%**	**1,044**	**10.8%**	**$18,790,543**	**10.7%**	**343**	**14.6%**	**931**	**8.9%**	**$15,592,125**	**7.3%**
Big Horn	28	1.2%	74	0.8%	$861,267	0.5%	43	1.8%	135	1.3%	$1,552,200	0.7%
Fremont	132	5.6%	449	4.6%	$7,568,886	4.3%	130	5.5%	320	3.1%	$5,476,211	2.5%
Hot Springs	20	0.9%	47	0.5%	$464,633	0.3%	18	0.8%	42	0.4%	$785,796	0.4%
Park	127	5.4%	297	3.1%	$7,209,668	4.1%	127	5.4%	357	3.4%	$6,772,155	3.2%
Washakie	32	1.4%	177	1.8%	$2,686,089	1.5%	25	1.1%	77	0.7%	$1,005,763	0.5%
NORTHEAST	**392**	**16.7%**	**1,344**	**13.9%**	**$23,998,368**	**13.7%**	**386**	**16.4%**	**1,837**	**17.5%**	**$34,849,444**	**16.2%**
Campbell	172	7.3%	790	8.2%	$16,865,044	9.6%	186	7.9%	1,175	11.2%	$21,957,315	10.2%
Crook	27	1.2%	66	0.7%	$707,500	0.4%	27	1.1%	89	0.8%	$757,201	0.4%
Johnson	53	2.3%	128	1.3%	$1,724,667	1.0%	50	2.1%	150	1.4%	$1,544,373	0.7%
Sheridan	123	5.3%	323	3.3%	$4,274,709	2.4%	110	4.7%	374	3.6%	$9,870,214	4.6%
Weston	17	0.7%	37	0.4%	$426,448	0.2%	13	0.6%	49	0.5%	$720,341	0.3%
SOUTHWEST	**690**	**29.5%**	**2,910**	**30.1%**	**$59,166,841**	**33.7%**	**653**	**27.8%**	**3,433**	**32.8%**	**$91,897,844**	**42.8%**
Lincoln	112	4.8%	710	7.3%	$12,544,574	7.1%	105	4.5%	1,017	9.7%	$42,898,995	20.0%
Sublette	87	3.7%	335	3.5%	$9,186,742	5.2%	87	3.7%	320	3.1%	$5,544,661	2.6%
Sweetwater	186	7.9%	828	8.6%	$16,775,720	9.5%	163	6.9%	1,070	10.2%	$22,089,949	10.3%
Teton	233	9.9%	788	8.1%	$17,537,005	10.0%	207	8.8%	540	5.2%	$11,993,441	5.6%
Uinta	72	3.1%	249	2.6%	$3,122,800	1.8%	91	3.9%	486	4.6%	$9,370,798	4.4%
SOUTHEAST	**486**	**20.8%**	**1,862**	**19.2%**	**$25,070,218**	**14.3%**	**527**	**22.4%**	**2,195**	**21.0%**	**$35,308,272**	**16.4%**
Albany	92	3.9%	406	4.2%	$4,043,835	2.3%	98	4.2%	287	2.7%	$3,924,441	1.8%
Goshen	43	1.8%	142	1.5%	$1,890,010	1.1%	36	1.5%	100	1.0%	$890,271	0.4%
Laramie	303	12.9%	1,137	11.7%	$16,970,328	9.7%	354	15.1%	1,696	16.2%	$29,453,646	13.7%
Niobrara	10	0.4%	82	0.8%	$1,114,531	0.6%	8	0.3%	22	0.2%	$42,454	0.0%
Platte	38	1.6%	95	1.0%	$1,051,514	0.6%	31	1.3%	90	0.9%	$997,460	0.5%
CENTRAL	**374**	**16.0%**	**1,436**	**14.8%**	**$23,812,479**	**13.6%**	**352**	**15.0%**	**1,168**	**11.2%**	**$18,188,770**	**8.5%**
Carbon	60	2.6%	346	3.6%	$2,983,519	1.7%	65	2.8%	284	2.7%	$4,755,342	2.2%
Converse	35	1.5%	106	1.1%	$2,048,842	1.2%	40	1.7%	109	1.0%	$1,273,633	0.6%
Natrona	279	11.9%	984	10.2%	$18,780,118	10.7%	247	10.5%	775	7.4%	$12,159,795	5.7%
Nonclassified[b]	61	2.6%	1,081	11.2%	$24,864,803	14.2%	91	3.9%	911	8.7%	$19,017,341	8.9%
STATEWIDE	**2,342**	**100.0%**	**9,677**	**100.0%**	**$175,703,252**	**100.0%**	**2,352**	**100.0%**	**10,475**	**100.0%**	**$214,853,796**	**100.0%**

[a]Initial jobs are defined as the highest average quarterly employment during the first two quarters a firm is in business.

[b]Includes firms without county information, with a foreign location, located in more than one county, and located out of state.

(Text continued from page 5)

data, with data from additional years included for comparison.

Regional Business Formation

Among the state's five regions, the southwest region attracted the most new firms in 2007 (653, or 27.8%), followed by the southeast region with 527 firms (22.4%). The northeast region added 386 firms (16.4%), while the central region expanded by 352 new firms (15.0%), and 343 new firms (14.6%) were added in the northwest region. The associated initial jobs were distributed similarly among regions. Of the 10,475 jobs added by new firms in 2007, nearly one-third (32.8%) were in the southwest region. The southwest region also shared the largest portion of new firms' associated wages with $91.9 million (42.8%).

Among the counties, Laramie County gained the most new firms (354) and jobs (1,696). Natrona County had the second highest number of new firms (247) and Teton County followed with 207 new firms. However, Natrona and Teton counties gained only 775 and 540 associated initial jobs, respectively, in 2007. These job gains were substantially less than Campbell (1,175 jobs), Sweetwater (1,070 jobs), and Lincoln (1,017 jobs) counties. This means that new firms that opened in Natrona and Teton counties were mostly smaller businesses.

New firms located in Lincoln County contributed the largest portion of associated total wages ($42.9 million, or 20.0%), although it ranked ninth among the counties for new firms (105). Laramie County had the second largest portion of wages ($29.5 million), followed by Sweetwater County ($22.1 million) and Campbell County ($22 million). Natrona and Teton counties gained only $12.2 million and $12 million, respectively.

New Businesses by Industry

In 2007 construction led all industries in the number of new firms (614, or 26.1%), initial jobs (3,758), and total payroll ($92 million; see Table 2, page 8). Professional & technical services had the second largest number of new firms with 297 (12.6%). Accommodation & food services and retail trade contributed the second and third largest numbers of jobs (1,398 and 846, respectively). The next largest additions to wages were in mining ($23.6 million) and professional & technical services ($18.9 million).

New firm creation in mining slowed notably in 2007 (103 firms, or 4.4%) compared to 2006 (143 firms, or 6.1%), as did the associated jobs and wages. The number of jobs created dropped from 892 in 2006 to 691 in 2007, while associated wages fell from $30.4 million to $23.6 million. This could have been due to the same reasons that caused the statewide oil and gas drilling slowdown (Moen, 2008): a lack of space in the pipelines, environmental restrictions to protect wildlife, and a lack of new permits to drill on federal land. Despite these issues, mining was the fourth largest job provider and the second largest wage contributor among all industries in 2007 for new firms.

Figure 2 (see page 9) shows that construction not only kept the historical lead in new business formation but also had significant increases in 2006 and 2007 compared to previous years. Compared

(Text continued on page 9)

Table 2: Wyoming New Firms, Associated Initial Jobs,[a] and Wages by Industry, 2006 and 2007

	2006						2007					
	New Firms		Initial Jobs		Total Wages		New Firms		Initial Jobs		Total Wages	
Industry	N	%	N	%	$	%	N	%	N	%	$	%
Agriculture	35	1.5%	105	1.1%	$1,496,835	0.9%	29	1.2%	74	0.7%	$905,178	0.4%
Mining	143	6.1%	892	9.2%	$30,384,250	17.3%	103	4.4%	691	6.6%	$23,630,511	11.0%
Utilities	3	0.1%	14	0.1%	$293,894	0.2%	4	0.2%	119	1.1%	$6,147,172	2.9%
Construction	573	24.5%	2,754	28.5%	$51,774,264	29.5%	614	26.1%	3,758	35.9%	$91,954,810	42.8%
Manufacturing	55	2.3%	241	2.5%	$5,318,541	3.0%	56	2.4%	252	2.4%	$3,984,591	1.9%
Wholesale Trade	111	4.7%	205	2.1%	$7,816,280	4.4%	109	4.6%	250	2.4%	$7,818,138	3.6%
Retail Trade	122	5.2%	651	6.7%	$6,568,403	3.7%	135	5.7%	846	8.1%	$9,539,427	4.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	141	6.0%	321	3.3%	$5,469,472	3.1%	122	5.2%	313	3.0%	$5,294,203	2.5%
Information	30	1.3%	77	0.8%	$2,875,914	1.6%	22	0.9%	34	0.3%	$875,979	0.4%
Finance & Insurance	73	3.1%	190	2.0%	$8,403,512	4.8%	83	3.5%	130	1.2%	$4,327,312	2.0%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	91	3.9%	165	1.7%	$3,267,503	1.9%	99	4.2%	203	1.9%	$4,436,725	2.1%
Professional & Technical Services	292	12.5%	667	6.9%	$14,478,493	8.2%	297	12.6%	658	6.3%	$18,905,212	8.8%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	16	0.7%	32	0.3%	$1,288,911	0.7%	9	0.4%	13	0.1%	$1,209,179	0.6%
Administrative & Waste Services	165	7.0%	557	5.8%	$5,107,615	2.9%	183	7.8%	596	5.7%	$10,912,727	5.1%
Educational Services	23	1.0%	178	1.8%	$3,422,346	1.9%	29	1.2%	62	0.6%	$2,107,065	1.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	122	5.2%	527	5.4%	$10,431,464	5.9%	119	5.1%	556	5.3%	$8,404,371	3.9%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	19	0.8%	57	0.6%	$586,962	0.3%	26	1.1%	75	0.7%	$413,368	0.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	137	5.8%	1,429	14.8%	$8,757,841	5.0%	125	5.3%	1,398	13.3%	$6,891,585	3.2%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	177	7.6%	454	4.7%	$5,161,135	2.9%	183	7.8%	426	4.1%	$6,415,261	3.0%
Public Administration	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	$0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	$0	0.0%
Government[b]	13	0.6%	160	1.7%	$2,788,642	1.6%	5	0.2%	21	0.2%	$680,982	0.3%
Nonclassified[c]	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	$10,975	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	$0	0.0%
Total	**2,342**	**100.0%**	**9,677**	**100.0%**	**175,703,252**	**100.0%**	**2,352**	**100.0%**	**10,475**	**100.0%**	**$214,853,796**	**100.0%**

[a]Initial jobs are defined as the highest average quarterly employment during the first two quarters a firm is in business.

[b]Includes all firms in the public administration sector and firms in other sectors owned by federal, state, or local government.

[c]No industry information available.

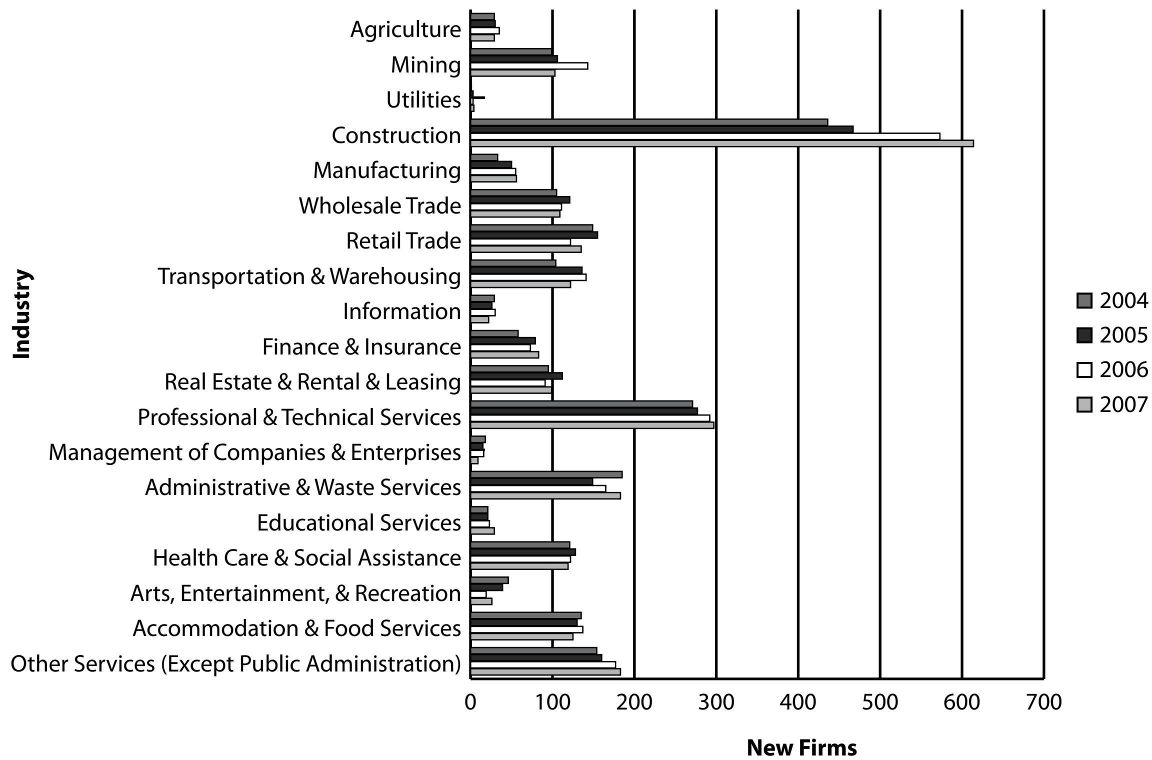

Figure 2: Wyoming New Firms by Private Sector Industry, 2004-2007

(Text continued from page 7)

to 2005, the number of new construction firms in 2007 increased 31.5% (467 to 614; see Table 3, page 10), the associated jobs almost doubled (84.4%; 2,038 to 3,758), and the related wages nearly tripled (187.9%; $31.9 million to $92 million). Within subsectors, however, there were wide variations in growth. The land subdivision construction and residential building construction subsectors were the only ones that showed a decrease or a single-digit percentage increase in the number of new firms. All other construction subsectors experienced double- or even triple-digit percentage increases. Most of the job and wage growth occurred in utility system construction, which is primarily related to oil and gas pipelines. In 2007, new firms in utility system construction added 1,600 jobs and $55 million in wages, compared to 650 jobs and $13.4 million in 2005.

Table 4 (see page 11) shows the distribution of the 4,694 new firms in 2006 and 2007 combined by industry and region. A number of factors influenced the distribution, including local natural resources, transportation conditions, population, geographic location, and the timing of projects such as highway and pipeline construction. For example, the northeast region attracted the largest portion (30.5%) of new mining firms, while the southeast region acquired only 3.3% of new mining firms. On the other hand, the southeast region attracted 40.4% of new information businesses while the northeast had only 11.5% of new firms in this industry. As the fastest growth area (with 28.6% of total new firms), the southwest

Table 3: Comparison of Construction New Firms and Associated Employment and Wages in Wyoming, 2005 and 2007

	New Firms			Employment			Wages		
Construction Subsectors	**2005**	**2007**	**% Change**	**2005**	**2007**	**% Change**	**2005**	**2007**	**% Change**
Residential Building Construction	126	135	7.1%	372	339	-8.9%	$5,012,360	$4,648,395	-7.3%
Nonresidential Building Construction	30	47	56.7%	161	154	-4.3%	$1,791,128	$5,182,510	189.3%
Utility System Construction	39	52	33.3%	650	1,600	146.2%	$13,392,056	$54,975,763	310.5%
Land Subdivision Construction	6	3	-50.0%	12	17	41.7%	$659,075	$434,711	-34.0%
Highway, Street, & Bridge Construction	6	15	150.0%	27	72	166.7%	$356,695	$1,239,661	247.5%
Other Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	4	7	75.0%	11	34	209.1%	$154,615	$668,792	332.6%
Foundation, Structure, & Building Exterior Contractors	76	92	21.1%	234	399	70.5%	$2,608,377	$4,812,514	84.5%
Building Equipment Contractors	73	101	38.4%	268	476	77.6%	$3,899,636	$11,523,211	195.5%
Building Finishing Contractors	49	87	77.6%	103	302	193.2%	$760,765	$3,253,980	327.7%
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	58	75	29.3%	200	365	82.5%	$3,305,978	$5,215,273	57.8%
Total	**467**	**614**	**31.5%**	**2,038**	**3,758**	**84.4%**	**$31,940,685**	**$91,954,810**	**187.9%**

region added a substantial percentage of new firms across a wide range of industries. It added approximately one-third of new firms in construction (31.2%), transportation & warehousing (36.9%), real estate & rental & leasing (32.6%), management of companies & enterprises (36.0%), arts, entertainment, & recreation (35.6%), and government (33.3%).

Business Survival

Due to the limited availability of information on business changes (selling, merging, splitting, etc.), this article analyzes the survival of a business only under its original owner. A firm still reporting its employment and wage information to the Unemployment Insurance Tax Division of the Wyoming Department of Employment one year after its creation is considered to have survived one year. The same method is used to define two-year survival, three-year survival, and so on. The one-year survival rate is the number of one-year survivals divided by the total number of firms that opened for business one year prior. The two-year survival rate is the number of two-year survivals divided by the total number of new firms opened two years prior. The same method is applied to other survival rates.

The length of survival for a new business depends on many factors, such as market demand for the specific product or service the firm provides, competition from similar businesses, government policies, required labor, and business location. Knowing a firm's probability of survival before deciding what kind of business to start and where to locate could help prospective business owners to project future success.

Figure 3 (see page 12) shows that more than two-thirds (69.1%) of new firms in Wyoming survived one year in business. More than half (55.1%) survived two years. As a general rule, the survival rate decreases as the years increase. Only 45.6% of new firms were in business three years after formation.

Firms in health care & social assistance had the best one-year survival

Table 4: Wyoming New Firms by Industry and Region, 2006 and 2007 Combined

Industry	Regional Shares of Industry Total: Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast	Central	Nonclassified[a]	New Firms Statewide	Percentage of Total
Agriculture	25.0%	23.4%	12.5%	25.0%	14.1%	0.0%	64	1.4%
Mining	14.6%	30.5%	24.8%	3.3%	23.2%	3.7%	246	5.2%
Utilities	0.0%	42.9%	0.0%	42.9%	0.0%	14.3%	7	0.1%
Construction	12.8%	19.4%	31.2%	18.4%	14.4%	3.9%	1,187	25.3%
Manufacturing	24.3%	10.8%	22.5%	19.8%	21.6%	0.9%	111	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	12.7%	12.3%	24.1%	30.0%	15.5%	5.5%	220	4.7%
Retail Trade	13.2%	18.3%	27.2%	21.8%	17.9%	1.6%	257	5.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	12.2%	15.6%	36.9%	18.6%	15.6%	1.1%	263	5.6%
Information	11.5%	11.5%	15.4%	40.4%	11.5%	9.6%	52	1.1%
Finance & Insurance	12.2%	8.3%	29.5%	25.6%	17.9%	6.4%	156	3.3%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12.6%	15.8%	32.6%	23.7%	14.7%	0.5%	190	4.0%
Professional & Technical Services	14.9%	13.6%	28.7%	25.1%	14.1%	3.6%	589	12.5%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	16.0%	12.0%	36.0%	24.0%	8.0%	4.0%	25	0.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	12.1%	12.4%	29.3%	24.7%	14.4%	7.2%	348	7.4%
Educational Services	19.2%	11.5%	17.3%	38.5%	7.7%	5.8%	52	1.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.9%	10.4%	22.4%	24.1%	21.6%	1.7%	241	5.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	22.2%	11.1%	35.6%	13.3%	15.6%	2.2%	45	1.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	19.8%	15.3%	27.1%	23.3%	14.1%	0.4%	262	5.6%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	14.2%	20.3%	29.7%	22.8%	12.5%	0.6%	360	7.7%
Government[b]	16.7%	22.2%	33.3%	11.1%	11.1%	5.6%	18	0.4%
Nonclassified[c]	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total	**14.5%**	**16.6%**	**28.6%**	**21.6%**	**15.5%**	**3.2%**	**4,694**	**100.0%**

[a]Includes firms without county information, with a foreign location, located in more than one county, and located out of state.
[b]Includes all firms in the public administration sector and firms in other sectors owned by federal, state, or local government.
[c]No industry information available.

rate (82.8%), followed by firms in management of companies & enterprises (80.9%) and real estate & rental & leasing (77.5%). The construction industry has historically had the largest percentage of new firms (26.1% in 2007). However, firms in this industry had the poorest survival rates. Only 58.1% were active after one year in business and 35.5% survived three years. This was most likely due to construction firms' dependence on temporary projects, such as repairing highways and construction of bridges and pipelines.

The industries with the best three-year survival rate were management of companies & enterprises (63.2%), health care & social assistance (62.3%), and utilities (60.5%). However, with the exception of health care & social assistance, there were few new firms

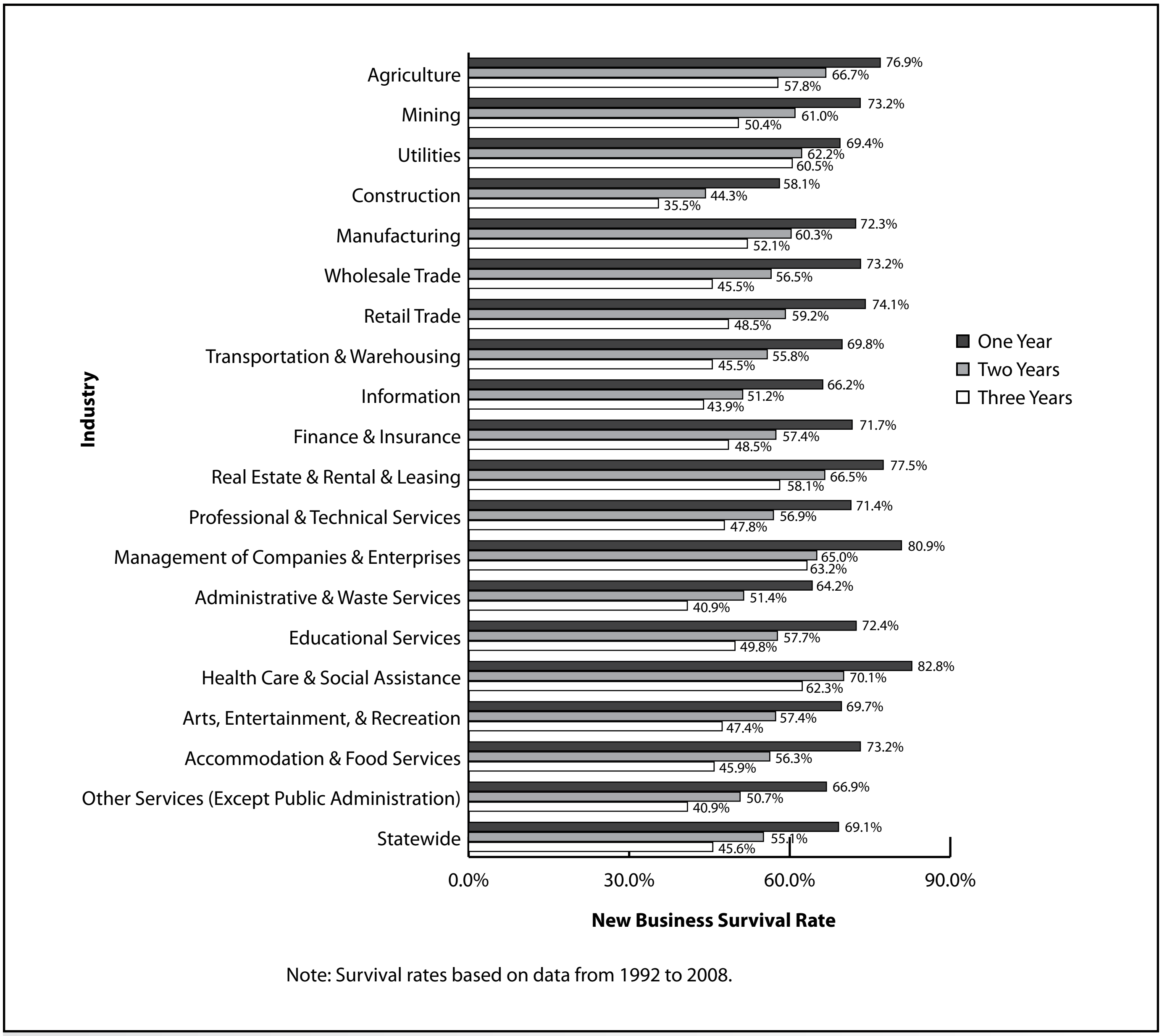

Figure 3: Wyoming Private Sector New Business Survival Rates by Industry

in these industries each year and their associated initial jobs were very limited. In addition, construction, accommodation & food services, and retail trade (the top three industries for creating new jobs in 2007) all had a three-year survival rate lower than 50%.

Firms in various industries may face significantly different survival challenges in different areas of the state. For example, 87.5% of utilities firms in the southwest region were still active after three years, but only 40.0% in the central region were still active (see Table 5, page 13). Agriculture firms had better chances of surviving in the central and southeast regions (64.2% and 62.5%, respectively) than any of the other three regions. Firms in educational services fared much better in the northeast region (70.8%) compared to those in the central region (41.5%).

Table 5: Wyoming New Business Three-Year Survival Rate by Industry and Region

Industry	Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast	Central	Statewide
Agriculture	55.3%	56.3%	56.9%	62.5%	64.2%	57.8%
Mining	55.0%	49.0%	49.3%	38.2%	52.4%	50.4%
Utilities	75.0%	44.4%	87.5%	66.7%	40.0%	60.5%
Construction	38.0%	37.1%	35.1%	33.6%	37.9%	35.5%
Manufacturing	47.5%	47.5%	51.9%	56.7%	55.8%	52.1%
Wholesale Trade	50.3%	50.5%	42.5%	44.6%	47.6%	45.5%
Retail Trade	48.5%	51.0%	51.1%	46.4%	47.3%	48.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	51.3%	45.2%	48.9%	41.8%	43.4%	45.5%
Information	50.0%	48.8%	34.1%	51.2%	31.4%	43.9%
Finance & Insurance	51.3%	54.8%	46.4%	46.5%	52.3%	48.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	56.1%	68.0%	52.8%	58.2%	62.7%	58.1%
Professional & Technical Services	46.6%	50.3%	51.7%	46.9%	46.4%	47.8%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	47.1%	73.3%	66.7%	63.2%	62.5%	63.2%
Administrative & Waste Services	36.1%	41.0%	42.4%	45.2%	42.1%	40.9%
Educational Services	48.1%	70.8%	60.0%	46.9%	41.5%	49.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	60.4%	67.1%	61.1%	65.3%	59.8%	62.3%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	48.5%	49.1%	51.4%	42.2%	41.2%	47.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	46.2%	47.2%	45.0%	46.3%	44.4%	45.9%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	38.3%	39.8%	41.7%	38.7%	46.2%	40.9%
Total	**46.3%**	**47.3%**	**45.5%**	**45.0%**	**47.0%**	**45.6%**

Note: Survival rate based on data from 1992 to 2008.

Summary

A total of 2,342 and 2,352 new firms opened for business in Wyoming during 2006 and 2007, respectively. These new firms provided 9,677 and 10,475 associated initial jobs to the state and contributed $175.7 million and $214.9 million in associated total wages. The southwest, southeast, and northeast regions had the most new firms in those two years. Due to oil and gas pipeline-related construction, new firms' associated jobs and wages experienced a large increase in the construction industry. The number of new firms in mining decreased in 2007 after steadily increasing over the past several years, but mining still ranked as the fourth largest job provider among all industries and the second largest wage contributor among new firms.

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A QUICK LOOK AT THE

Wyoming Benefits Survey 2008

Excerpted from http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits_2008/cover.htm

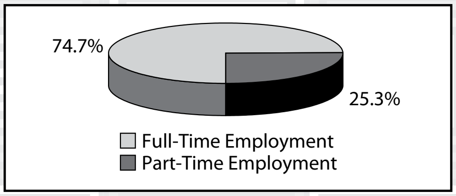

Figure 1: **Percentage of Employees in Wyoming by Full- and Part-Time Status, 2007**

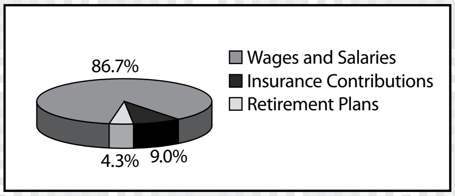

Figure 2: **Wyoming Compensation Costs as a Percentage of Total Compensation, 2007**

Table 1: **Percentage of Full-Time Employees Offered Selected Benefits in Wyoming, 2003-2007**

Benefit Type	2003	2005	2007
Child Care	6.3%	5.7%	5.7%
Dental Plan	74.6%	67.8%	65.3%
Dependent Health Insurance	83.9%	74.4%	72.8%
Health Insurance	87.2%	78.0%	76.3%
Life Insurance	77.6%	66.8%	67.3%
Paid Holidays	78.1%	80.6%	73.9%
Paid Personal Leave	19.9%	33.3%	46.6%
Paid Sick Leave	60.4%	51.7%	39.1%
Paid Vacation	89.1%	74.8%	71.8%
Retirement Plan	79.3%	75.2%	75.8%
Short-Term Disability	27.3%	30.8%	29.4%
Vision Plan	30.1%	39.3%	45.9%

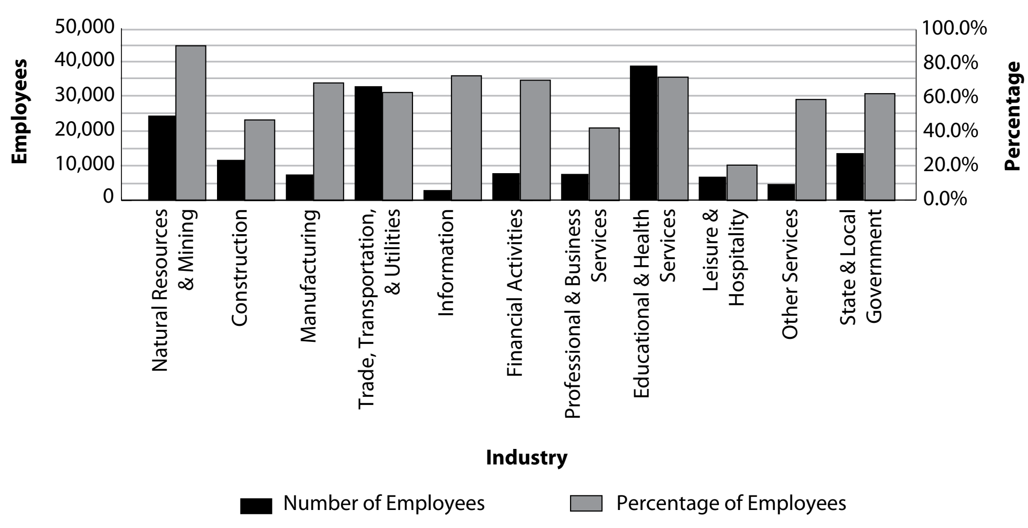

Figure 3: **Number and Percentage of Employees (Full- and Part-Time) in Wyoming Offered Health Insurance by Industry, 2007**

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Table 2: **Amount Paid for Benefits by Employers for Wyoming Employees, 2007**

	Employer Paid		Employee Paid		Jointly Paid	
Benefit Type	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Dental Plan	40.8%	19.7%	15.5%	25.9%	43.7%	54.4%
Dependent Health Insurance	22.5%	10.7%	27.9%	26.1%	49.6%	63.3%
Health Insurance	50.3%	26.8%	1.3%	14.2%	48.4%	59.0%
Life Insurance	70.5%	59.5%	9.4%	22.9%	20.1%	17.6%
Long-Term Disability	60.4%	57.8%	21.9%	21.3%	17.7%	20.9%
Short-Term Disability	55.5%	45.0%	30.7%	39.0%	13.8%	16.0%
Vision Plan	28.6%	15.4%	23.5%	40.1%	47.8%	44.5%

Table 3: **Average Number of Days of Leave Benefits for Wyoming Employees, 2007**

	Days	
Type of Leave	**Full-Time**	**Part-Time**
Paid Holidays	7.0	6.6
Paid Sick Leave	7.0	7.0
Paid Vacation (After 1 Year)	7.8	6.4
Paid Vacation (After 5 Years)	12.2	9.6
Paid Vacation (After 10 Years)	14.7	11.5
Paid Personal Leave (After 1 Year)	8.2	6.1
Paid Personal Leave (After 5 Years)	11.7	8.2
Paid Personal Leave (After 10 Years)	13.8	9.6

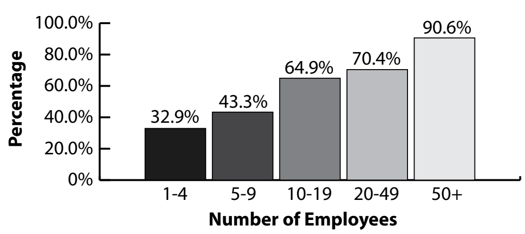

Figure 4: **Percentage of Full-Time Employees Offered Health Insurance in Wyoming by Number of Employees Per Firm, 2007**

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January 2009
For More Information About Benefits in Wyoming, see http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits.htm

Table 4: **Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Employees Offered Selected Benefits in Wyoming by Number of Employees Per Firm, 2007**

	Number of Employees				
Benefit Type	**1-4**	**5-9**	**10-19**	**20-49**	**50+**
Full-Time					
Child Care	1.3%	1.4%	3.7%	2.9%	8.1%
Dental Plan	18.1%	29.3%	50.1%	56.1%	82.1%
Dep. Health Ins.	25.5%	35.3%	58.1%	65.6%	89.3%
Flex. Spend. Acct.	8.5%	16.3%	23.5%	32.7%	63.0%
Health Ins.	32.9%	43.3%	64.9%	70.4%	90.6%
Life Insurance	19.3%	29.6%	48.4%	56.6%	85.7%
Long-Term Dis.	8.6%	14.0%	22.6%	23.3%	58.4%
Paid Sick Leave	25.9%	30.8%	28.7%	35.6%	45.0%
Paid Vacation	51.7%	60.2%	65.4%	73.7%	76.7%
Retirement Plan	28.7%	40.8%	61.5%	71.2%	91.2%
Short-Term Dis.	9.7%	13.3%	21.1%	22.6%	38.4%
Vision Plan	9.5%	18.2%	27.3%	35.8%	61.1%
Part-Time					
Child Care	1.0%	0.6%	0.1%	2.1%	8.3%
Dental Plan	1.0%	1.8%	3.7%	6.7%	19.5%
Dep. Health Ins.	1.4%	1.2%	3.3%	10.6%	18.2%
Flex. Spend. Acct.	3.5%	1.4%	6.3%	7.2%	30.0%
Health Ins.	2.9%	2.9%	3.8%	10.6%	20.7%
Life Insurance	0.7%	2.8%	4.1%	8.2%	15.2%
Long-Term Dis.	0.0%	3.2%	1.2%	2.0%	10.3%
Paid Sick Leave	5.5%	3.4%	5.7%	11.3%	22.8%
Paid Vacation	9.7%	10.8%	19.1%	28.4%	37.8%
Retirement Plan	9.2%	12.3%	13.8%	20.4%	50.2%
Short-Term Dis.	0.2%	1.9%	2.0%	4.8%	5.9%
Vision Plan	0.7%	1.1%	2.2%	4.2%	17.1%

Employer Seminars Continue in 2009

Running 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 Unemployment Rate Increases in January 2009

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

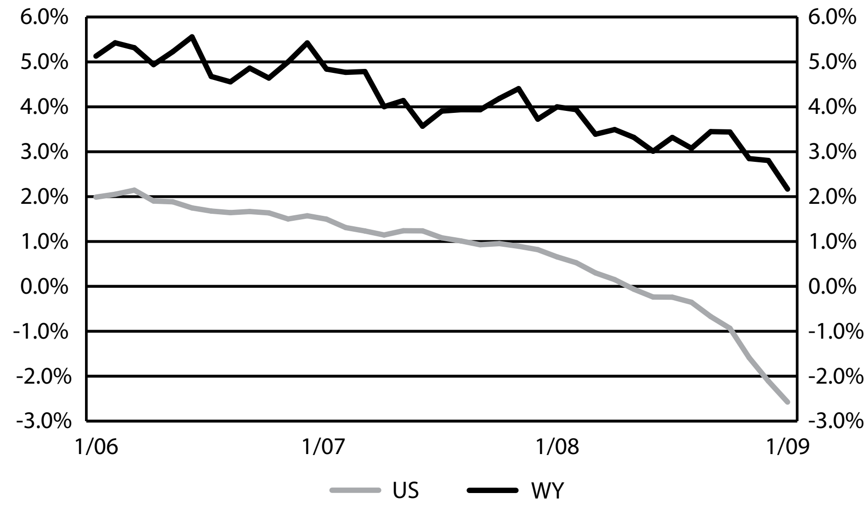
Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.2% (as revised) in December to 3.7% in January. Despite rising a full percentage point from January 2008, it remained well below the U.S. rate of 7.6%. The over-the-year job growth rate slowed to 2.2% in January, down from 2.8% (as revised) in December.

From December to January, Wyoming lost 8,200 jobs (-2.7%), more than the normal seasonal pattern when employment falls by 6,200 jobs, making this January's decrease somewhat larger than average. Usual seasonal job losses were seen in natural resources & mining (-500 jobs, or -1.7%), construction (-2,400 jobs, or -8.8%), retail trade (-1,300 jobs, or -3.9%), professional & business services (-800 jobs, or -4.4%), and government (-2,100 jobs, or -2.9%).

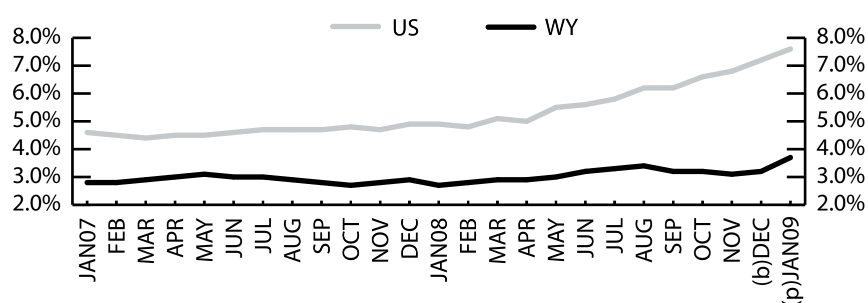
Over the year Wyoming added 6,200 jobs (2.2%). The largest job gains occurred in government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; 2,600 jobs, or 3.9%), natural resources & mining (1,600 jobs, or 5.7%), and educational & health services (1,200 jobs, or 5.1%). More modest gains were seen in leisure & hospitality (900 jobs, or 2.8%), wholesale trade (300 jobs, or 3.4%), and retail trade (300 jobs, or 0.9%). Construction employment fell by 800 jobs (-3.1%) and manufacturing employment fell by 300 jobs (-3.0%). Employment was unchanged in professional & business services and information.

County unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.0%), followed by Fremont (6.6%), Platte (6.3%), Big Horn (6.2%), and Park (6.1%) counties. Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates increased in all 23 counties. Some of the largest increases were seen in Lincoln County (up from 3.5% in January 2008 to 7.0% in January 2009), Teton County (up from 2.3% to 5.0%), Carbon County (up from 3.7% to 5.6%), and Sheridan County (up from 3.7% to 5.6%).

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)

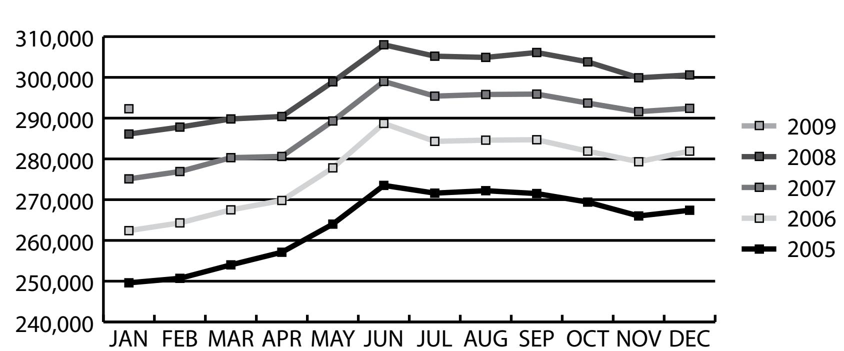


Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)



(b) Benchmarked.
(p) Preliminary.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates January 2009 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.0
Michigan	11.6
South Carolina	10.4
Rhode Island	10.3
California	10.1
Oregon	9.9
North Carolina	9.7
Nevada	9.4
District of Columbia	9.3
Indiana	9.2
Ohio	8.8
Kentucky	8.7
Mississippi	8.7
Florida	8.6
Georgia	8.6
Tennessee	8.6
Missouri	8.0
Alaska	7.9
Illinois	7.9
Alabama	7.8
Maine	7.8
Washington	7.8
Minnesota	7.6
United States	**7.6**
Massachusetts	7.4
Connecticut	7.3
New Jersey	7.3
Arizona	7.0
New York	7.0
Pennsylvania	7.0
Wisconsin	6.9
Vermont	6.8
Delaware	6.7
Colorado	6.6
Idaho	6.6
Arkansas	6.4
Texas	6.4
Maryland	6.2
Hawaii	6.1
Virginia	6.0
Kansas	5.8
Montana	5.6
West Virginia	5.3
Louisiana	5.1
New Hampshire	5.1
New Mexico	5.1
Oklahoma	5.0
Iowa	4.8
Utah	4.6
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.3
North Dakota	4.2
Wyoming	**3.7**

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

From December to January, usual seasonal job losses were seen in natural resources & mining, construction, retail trade, professional & business services, and government.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands Jan09(p)	Dec08(b)	Jan08	Percentage Change Total Employment Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**292.3**	**300.5**	**286.1**	**-2.7**	**2.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**222.3**	**228.4**	**218.7**	**-2.7**	**1.6**
GOODS PRODUCING	**64.4**	**67.5**	**63.9**	**-4.6**	**0.8**
Natural Resources & Mining	29.7	30.2	28.1	-1.7	5.7
Mining	29.6	30.1	28.1	-1.7	5.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.5	4.6	4.5	-2.2	0.0
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.9	9.9	9.5	0.0	4.2
Coal Mining	7.0	7.0	6.6	0.0	6.1
Support Activities for Mining	15.2	15.6	14.1	-2.6	7.8
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	11.5	11.6	10.4	-0.9	10.6
Construction	25.0	27.4	25.8	-8.8	-3.1
Construction of Buildings	4.4	4.8	4.6	-8.3	-4.3
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	8.2	9.0	9.3	-8.9	-11.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.4	13.6	11.9	-8.8	4.2
Manufacturing	9.7	9.9	10.0	-2.0	-3.0
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.2	0.0	-1.9
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.8	4.8	-4.2	-4.2
SERVICE PROVIDING	**227.9**	**233.0**	**222.2**	**-2.2**	**2.6**
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	55.8	57.4	55.0	-2.8	1.5
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.2	8.8	-1.1	3.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable	5.9	5.9	5.7	0.0	3.5
Retail Trade	31.9	33.2	31.6	-3.9	0.9
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.7	4.6	-2.1	0.0
Grocery Stores	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0
Gasoline Stations	3.9	4.0	4.0	-2.5	-2.5
General Merchandise Stores	6.8	7.1	6.5	-4.2	4.6
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.9	1.9	-5.3	-5.3
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	14.8	15.0	14.6	-1.3	1.4
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	12.3	12.5	12.1	-1.6	1.7
Truck Transportation	4.5	4.6	4.3	-2.2	4.7
Information	4.0	4.1	4.0	-2.4	0.0
Financial Activities	11.5	11.7	11.4	-1.7	0.9
Finance & Insurance	7.2	7.3	7.1	-1.4	1.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.3	4.4	4.3	-2.3	0.0
Professional & Business Services	17.3	18.1	17.3	-4.4	0.0
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	9.5	9.7	9.6	-2.1	-1.0
Architect., Engineering, & Rel.	2.9	3.0	2.8	-3.3	3.6
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Admin., Support, & Waste Services	7.0	7.6	6.9	-7.9	1.4
Educational & Health Services	24.9	24.8	23.7	0.4	5.1
Educational Services	2.3	2.2	2.4	4.5	-4.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	22.6	22.6	21.3	0.0	6.1
Ambulatory Health Care	8.4	8.4	8.0	0.0	5.0
Offices of Physicians	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	10.0
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.6	4.3	-2.2	4.7
Social Assistance	6.4	6.3	6.0	1.6	6.7
Leisure & Hospitality	32.5	32.6	31.6	-0.3	2.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.3	2.4	2.4	-4.2	-4.2
Accommodation & Food Services	30.2	30.2	29.2	0.0	3.4
Accommodation	11.4	11.0	10.7	3.6	6.5
Food Services & Drinking Places	18.8	19.2	18.5	-2.1	1.6
Other Services	11.9	12.2	11.8	-2.5	0.8
Repair & Maintenance	4.0	4.1	4.0	-2.4	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**70.0**	**72.1**	**67.4**	**-2.9**	**3.9**
Federal Government	7.0	7.1	6.9	-1.4	1.4
State Government	16.1	16.6	15.0	-3.0	7.3
State Government Education	6.7	7.4	5.9	-9.5	13.6
Local Government	46.9	48.4	45.5	-3.1	3.1
Local Government Education	24.0	25.4	23.7	-5.5	1.3
Hospitals	6.6	6.6	6.2	0.0	6.5

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands Jan09(p)	Dec08(b)	Jan08	Percentage Change Total Employment Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**44.1**	**45.2**	**43.9**	**-2.4**	**0.5**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**30.4**	**31.4**	**30.7**	**-3.2**	**-1.0**
GOODS PRODUCING	**4.7**	**4.9**	**4.5**	**-4.1**	**4.4**
Natural Res., Mining, & Construction	3.1	3.2	2.8	-3.1	10.7
Manufacturing	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9
SERVICE PROVIDING	**39.4**	**40.3**	**39.4**	**-2.2**	**0.0**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.5	9.8	9.9	-3.1	-4.0
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Retail Trade	5.5	5.8	5.7	-5.2	-3.5
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.1	3.1	3.4	0.0	-8.8
Information	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Financial Activities	2.1	2.2	2.1	-4.5	0.0
Professional & Business Services	3.1	3.2	3.4	-3.1	-8.8
Educational & Health Services	3.9	4.0	3.8	-2.5	2.6
Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.5	4.4	-2.2	0.0
Other Services	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**13.7**	**13.8**	**13.2**	**-0.7**	**3.8**
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
State Government	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.4	5.0
Local Government	6.9	7.1	6.7	-2.8	3.0
Local Education	3.5	3.6	3.4	-2.8	2.9

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT

TOTAL PRIVATE
GOODS PRODUCING
Natural Resources & Mining
Construction
Manufacturing

SERVICE PROVIDING
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities
Wholesale Trade
Retail Trade
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities
Information
Financial Activities
Professional & Business Services
Educational & Health Services
Leisure & Hospitality
Other Services

TOTAL GOVERNMENT
Federal Government
State Government
Local Government
Local Education

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. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

CAMPBELL COUNTY	Employment in Thousands Jan09	Dec08	Jan08	Percentage Change Total Employment Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**29.9**	**30.2**	**28.5**	**-1.0**	**4.9**
TOTAL PRIVATE	25.6	25.9	24.3	-1.2	5.3
GOODS PRODUCING	13.1	13.3	12.2	-1.5	7.4
Natural Resources & Mining	8.3	8.4	7.9	-1.2	5.1
Construction	4.2	4.3	3.7	-2.3	13.5
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.8	16.9	16.3	-0.6	3.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.6	5.7	5.4	-1.8	3.7
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	1.9	0.0	5.3
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0
Other Services	1.1	1.0	1.1	10.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4

SWEETWATER COUNTY	Jan09	Dec08	Jan08	Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**25.8**	**26.4**	**25.5**	**-2.3**	**1.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.3	21.7	21.1	-1.8	0.9
GOODS PRODUCING	9.4	9.6	9.4	-2.1	0.0
Natural Resources & Mining	6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0	3.4
Construction	2.0	2.2	2.3	-9.1	-13.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.4	16.8	16.1	-2.4	1.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.3	5.4	5.3	-1.9	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Educational & Health Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.5	2.4	-4.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.5	4.7	4.4	-4.3	2.3

TETON COUNTY	Jan09	Dec08	Jan08	Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**17.9**	**18.0**	**17.9**	**-0.6**	**0.0**
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.7	15.8	15.7	-0.6	0.0
GOODS PRODUCING	2.3	2.7	2.3	-14.8	0.0
Natural Res., Mining, & Construction	2.2	2.5	2.2	-12.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.1	0.2	0.1	-50.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.6	15.3	15.6	2.0	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.5	6.2	6.7	4.8	-3.0
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0

State Unemployment Rates January 2009 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.0
Michigan	12.5
Rhode Island	11.4
Oregon	10.9
South Carolina	10.9
California	10.6
North Carolina	10.3
Nevada	10.2
Indiana	9.9
District of Columbia	9.7
Ohio	9.7
Kentucky	9.5
Tennessee	9.3
Mississippi	9.2
Alaska	9.1
Florida	8.8
Georgia	8.8
Maine	8.8
Missouri	8.7
Washington	8.6
Illinois	8.5
Minnesota	8.5
United States	**8.5**
Alabama	8.2
Massachusetts	8.1
Connecticut	7.9
New Jersey	7.9
Idaho	7.8
Pennsylvania	7.7
New York	7.6
Vermont	7.6
Wisconsin	7.6
Arkansas	7.3
Delaware	7.3
Arizona	7.2
Colorado	7.2
Texas	6.8
Maryland	6.7
Montana	6.7
Kansas	6.4
Virginia	6.4
West Virginia	6.2
Hawaii	6.1
Iowa	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
New Hampshire	5.7
Oklahoma	5.6
New Mexico	5.2
Nebraska	5.1
North Dakota	5.1
South Dakota	5.1
Utah	5.0
Wyoming	**4.8**

Economic Indicators

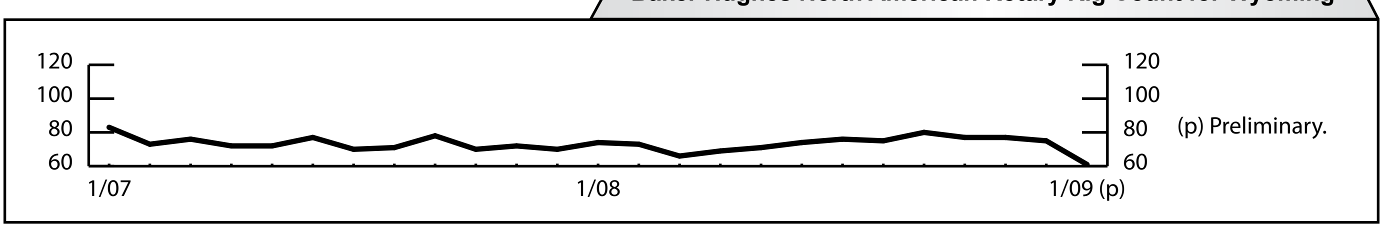
by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming decreased 18.7% from December to January and 17.6% from a year earlier.

	Jan 2009 (p)	Dec 2008 (r)	Jan 2008 (b)	Percentage Change Month	Percentage Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force[a]	290,126	291,497	287,671	-0.5	0.9
Unemployed	13,983	10,457	10,637	33.7	31.5
Employed	276,143	281,040	277,034	-1.7	-0.3
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.8%/3.7%	3.6%/3.2%	3.7%/2.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	8.5%/7.6%	7.1%/7.2%	5.4%/4.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,258,000	7,432,000	7,398,000	-2.3	-1.9
As a percentage of all workers	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	734,000	642,000	467,000	14.3	57.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	8,829,000	8,250,000	5,340,000	7.0	65.3
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	Data not available; see box on page 18.				
Average Weekly Hours					
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$1,055.12	$1,077.89	$1,022.39	-2.1	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	44.8	45.5	-1.8	-3.3
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$842.13	$892.93	$859.94	-5.7	-2.1
Average Weekly Hours	41.2	42.5	43.3	-3.1	-4.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$711.17	$727.82	$717.80	-2.3	-0.9
Average Weekly Hours	39.4	40.3	40.9	-2.2	-3.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	28,002	23,539	17,849	19.0	56.9
Benefits Paid	$9,055,307	$7,315,913	$5,272,550	23.8	71.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$323.38	$310.80	$295.40	4.0	9.5
State Insured Covered Jobs[a]	267,228	272,867	262,807	-2.1	1.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.3%	1.7%	1.3%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Items	211.1	210.2	211.1	0.4	0.0
Food & Beverages	219.7	218.8	208.8	0.4	5.2
Housing	216.9	216.1	212.2	0.4	2.2
Apparel	114.8	117.1	115.8	-2.0	-0.9
Transportation	166.7	164.6	190.8	1.3	-12.6
Medical Care	369.8	367.1	360.5	0.7	2.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)	113.8	113.7	112.1	0.1	1.6
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)	126.2	125.9	121.8	0.2	3.6
Other Goods & Services	350.3	349.2	339.1	0.3	3.3
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities	171.0	171.3	181.0	-0.2	-5.5
Wyoming Building Permits					
(New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	78	103	123	-24.3	-36.6
Valuation	$12,035,000	$19,032,000	$23,881,000	-36.8	-49.6
Single Family Homes	53	79	106	-32.9	-50.0
Valuation	$11,047,000	$17,983,000	$21,991,000	-38.6	-49.8
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	61	75	74	-18.7	-17.6

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
[a]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, followed by Fremont, Platte, Big Horn, and Park counties. Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates increased in all 23 counties.

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
REGION	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan
County	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2008	2008
	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)	(p)	(b)	(b)
NORTHWEST	**43,470**	**43,660**	**42,802**	**40,779**	**41,730**	**40,684**	**2,691**	**1,930**	**2,118**	**6.2**	**4.4**	**4.9**
Big Horn	4,924	4,966	4,817	4,621	4,751	4,546	303	215	271	6.2	4.3	5.6
Fremont	18,306	18,346	18,088	17,098	17,475	17,137	1,208	871	951	6.6	4.7	5.3
Hot Springs	2,348	2,378	2,403	2,222	2,283	2,304	126	95	99	5.4	4.0	4.1
Park	13,490	13,562	13,288	12,671	12,959	12,662	819	603	626	6.1	4.4	4.7
Washakie	4,402	4,408	4,206	4,167	4,262	4,035	235	146	171	5.3	3.3	4.1
NORTHEAST	**54,182**	**53,896**	**52,738**	**51,883**	**52,320**	**51,080**	**2,299**	**1,576**	**1,658**	**4.2**	**2.9**	**3.1**
Campbell	27,617	27,322	26,793	26,753	26,747	26,133	864	575	660	3.1	2.1	2.5
Crook	3,400	3,413	3,372	3,243	3,286	3,236	157	127	136	4.6	3.7	4.0
Johnson	3,994	4,008	3,837	3,781	3,833	3,676	213	175	161	5.3	4.4	4.2
Sheridan	15,928	15,919	15,527	15,031	15,342	14,957	897	577	570	5.6	3.6	3.7
Weston	3,243	3,234	3,209	3,075	3,112	3,078	168	122	131	5.2	3.8	4.1
SOUTHWEST	**64,501**	**64,662**	**64,742**	**61,646**	**62,489**	**62,884**	**2,855**	**2,173**	**1,858**	**4.4**	**3.4**	**2.9**
Lincoln	7,920	7,933	8,999	7,368	7,532	8,687	552	401	312	7.0	5.1	3.5
Sublette	7,119	7,018	6,536	6,933	6,866	6,406	186	152	130	2.6	2.2	2.0
Sweetwater	24,073	24,128	24,081	23,160	23,438	23,392	913	690	689	3.8	2.9	2.9
Teton	13,877	13,836	13,970	13,190	13,312	13,643	687	524	327	5.0	3.8	2.3
Uinta	11,512	11,747	11,156	10,995	11,341	10,756	517	406	400	4.5	3.5	3.6
SOUTHEAST	**72,103**	**73,027**	**71,370**	**68,406**	**70,149**	**68,309**	**3,697**	**2,878**	**3,061**	**5.1**	**3.9**	**4.3**
Albany	18,748	19,553	18,013	18,135	19,037	17,433	613	516	580	3.3	2.6	3.2
Goshen	6,004	6,164	6,028	5,740	5,933	5,772	264	231	256	4.4	3.7	4.2
Laramie	42,342	42,331	42,197	39,823	40,436	40,234	2,519	1,895	1,963	5.9	4.5	4.7
Niobrara	1,206	1,200	1,211	1,145	1,147	1,152	61	53	59	5.1	4.4	4.9
Platte	3,803	3,779	3,921	3,563	3,596	3,718	240	183	203	6.3	4.8	5.2
CENTRAL	**55,872**	**56,253**	**56,021**	**53,430**	**54,353**	**54,077**	**2,442**	**1,900**	**1,944**	**4.4**	**3.4**	**3.5**
Carbon	7,853	7,924	8,546	7,412	7,555	8,231	441	369	315	5.6	4.7	3.7
Converse	7,280	7,281	7,262	6,981	7,053	7,016	299	228	246	4.1	3.1	3.4
Natrona	40,739	41,048	40,213	39,037	39,745	38,830	1,702	1,303	1,383	4.2	3.2	3.4
STATEWIDE	**290,126**	**291,497**	**287,671**	**276,143**	**281,040**	**277,034**	**13,983**	**10,457**	**10,637**	**4.8**	**3.6**	**3.7**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.7	3.2	2.7
U.S.										8.5	7.1	5.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										7.6	7.2	4.9

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/09. Run date 03/09.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

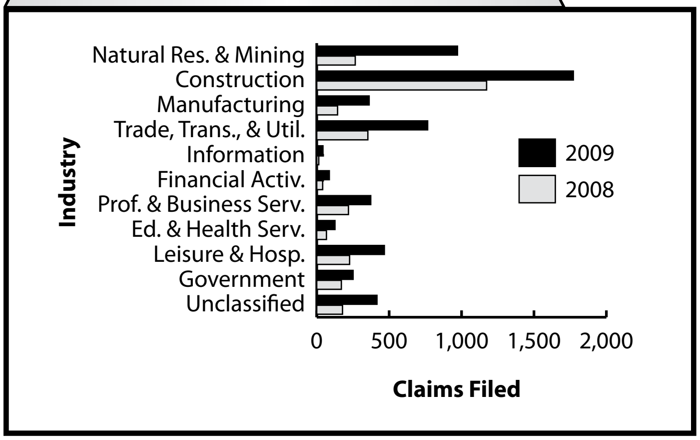
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized[a] Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

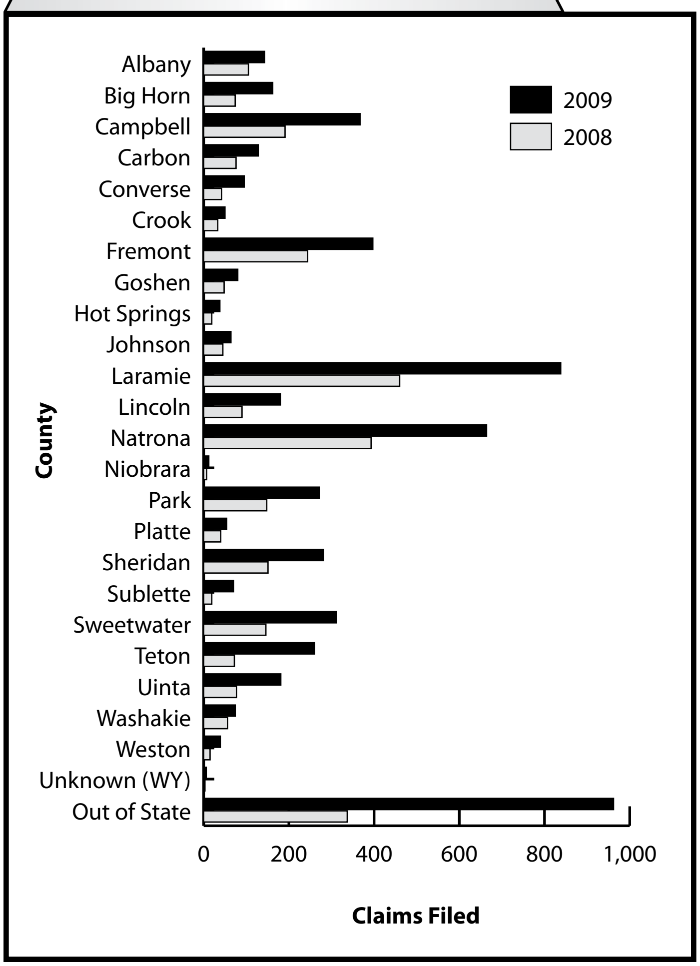
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

January 2009 claims nearly doubled compared to the same month a year ago, climbing 98.0%. Mining claims increased 297.0% over the year.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, January 2009



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, January 2009



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed			Percentage Change Claims Filed	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Jan09	Dec08	Jan08	Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**5,725**	**4,669**	**2,891**	**22.6**	**98.0**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3,106	2,796	1,583	11.1	96.2
Natural Resources & Mining	972	506	266	92.1	265.4
Mining	941	479	237	96.5	297.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	52	80	18	-35.0	188.9
Construction	1,772	1,940	1,173	-8.7	51.1
Manufacturing	362	350	144	3.4	151.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,952	1,335	960	46.2	103.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	766	446	353	71.7	117.0
Wholesale Trade	100	55	49	81.8	104.1
Retail Trade	408	223	183	83.0	123.0
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	258	168	121	53.6	113.2
Information	43	22	14	95.5	207.1
Financial Activities	87	48	41	81.3	112.2
Professional & Business Serv.	373	334	219	11.7	70.3
Educational & Health Services	126	127	67	-0.8	88.1
Leisure & Hospitality	467	301	227	55.1	105.7
Other Services	90	57	39	57.9	130.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	251	199	170	26.1	47.6
Federal Government	108	96	72	12.5	50.0
State Government	27	13	20	107.7	35.0
Local Government	116	90	78	28.9	48.7
Local Education	19	20	14	-5.0	35.7
UNCLASSIFIED	416	339	178	22.7	133.7
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**838**	**818**	**461**	**2.4**	**81.8**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	410	491	254	-16.5	61.4
Construction	274	366	212	-25.1	29.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	365	275	172	32.7	112.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	212	91	73	133.0	190.4
Financial Activities	12	12	10	0.0	20.0
Professional & Business Serv.	45	76	38	-40.8	18.4
Educational & Health Services	27	33	12	-18.2	125.0
Leisure & Hospitality	52	44	26	18.2	100.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	24	24	19	0.0	26.3
UNCLASSIFIED	39	28	16	39.3	143.8
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**662**	**596**	**396**	**11.1**	**67.2**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	380	412	222	-7.8	71.2
Construction	208	287	171	-27.5	21.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	250	159	160	57.2	56.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	84	54	58	55.6	44.8
Financial Activities	10	5	15	100.0	-33.3
Professional & Business Serv.	50	39	43	28.2	16.3
Educational & Health Services	29	26	10	11.5	190.0
Leisure & Hospitality	45	23	22	95.7	104.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	10	11	7	-9.1	42.9
UNCLASSIFIED	22	14	7	57.1	214.3

[a]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[a] Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

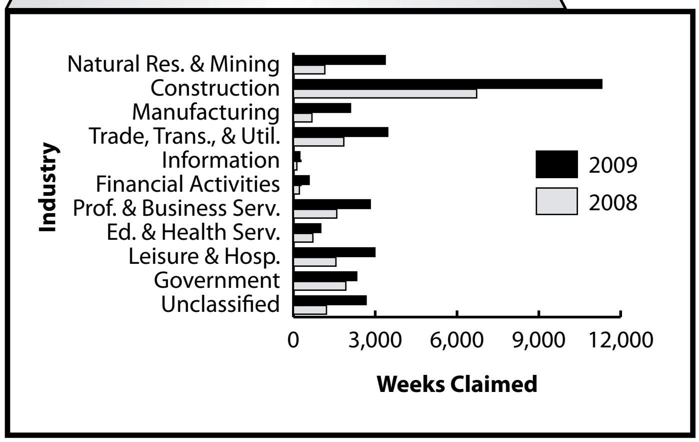
Continued claims increased 38.8% over the month and 85.3% over the year. The number of individuals filing continued benefit claims in January 2009 was 114.7% greater than in January 2008.

Continued Claims

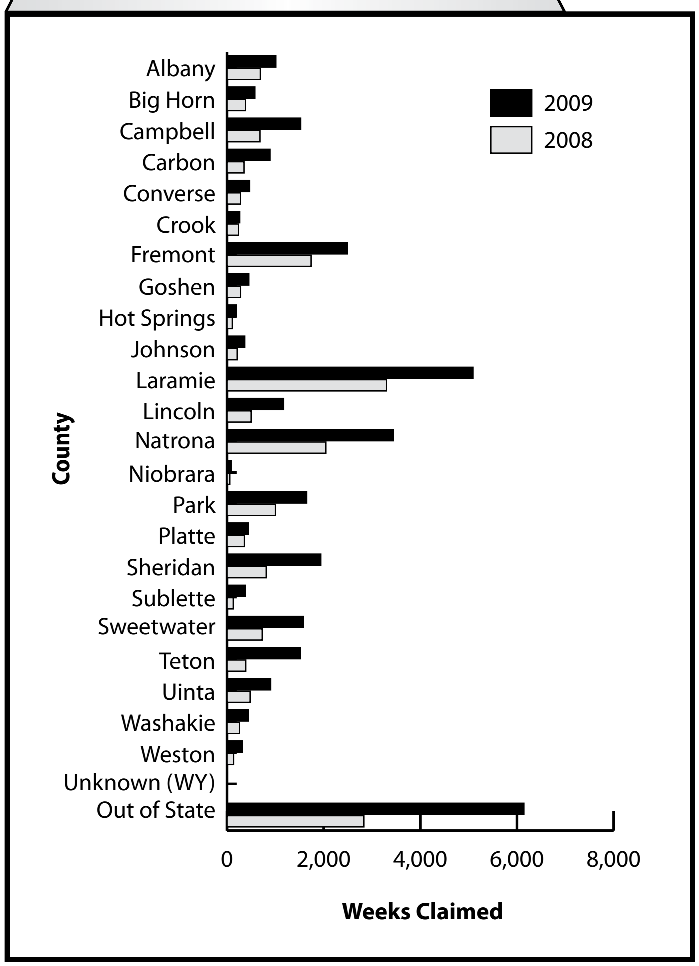
	Claims Filed			Percentage Change Claims Filed	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Jan09	Dec08	Jan08	Dec08 Jan09	Jan08 Jan09
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**33,352**	**24,037**	**17,996**	**38.8**	**85.3**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**10,003**	**6,289**	**4,658**	**59.1**	**114.7**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	16,769	9,781	8,551	71.4	96.1
Natural Resources & Mining	3,366	1,740	1,152	93.4	192.2
Mining	3,126	1,574	1,006	98.6	210.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	596	375	57	58.9	945.6
Construction	11,309	6,926	6,719	63.3	68.3
Manufacturing	2,094	1,115	680	87.8	207.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	11,594	10,156	6,310	14.2	83.7
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	3,459	2,577	1,848	34.2	87.2
Wholesale Trade	515	363	219	41.9	135.2
Retail Trade	1,977	1,547	1,056	27.8	87.2
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	967	667	573	45.0	68.8
Information	236	175	126	34.9	87.3
Financial Activities	577	461	219	25.2	163.5
Professional & Business Serv.	2,818	2,203	1,590	27.9	77.2
Educational & Health Services	1,003	848	714	18.3	40.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,989	3,436	1,559	-13.0	91.7
Other Services	512	456	254	12.3	101.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,322	2,171	1,923	7.0	20.7
Federal Government	1,146	1,095	991	4.7	15.6
State Government	155	180	228	-13.9	-32.0
Local Government	1,021	896	704	14.0	45.0
Local Education	204	197	113	3.6	80.5
UNCLASSIFIED	2,667	1,929	1,212	38.3	120.0
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**5,089**	**3,551**	**3,299**	**43.3**	**54.3**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**1,569**	**970**	**857**	**61.8**	**83.1**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,471	1,456	1,685	69.7	46.6
Construction	1,840	1,139	1,473	61.5	24.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	2,172	1,659	1,241	30.9	75.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	755	527	435	43.3	73.6
Financial Activities	102	88	66	15.9	54.5
Professional & Business Serv.	602	537	313	12.1	92.3
Educational & Health Services	273	202	214	35.1	27.6
Leisure & Hospitality	295	182	163	62.1	81.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	239	263	233	-9.1	2.6
UNCLASSIFIED	207	173	140	19.7	47.9
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**3,445**	**2,132**	**2,045**	**61.6**	**68.5**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**1,058**	**563**	**573**	**87.9**	**84.6**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,000	1,072	1,135	86.6	76.2
Construction	1,274	653	913	95.1	39.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,262	919	755	37.3	67.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	412	269	230	53.2	79.1
Financial Activities	51	59	46	-13.6	10.9
Professional & Business Serv.	281	202	235	39.1	19.6
Educational & Health Services	207	168	81	23.2	155.6
Leisure & Hospitality	164	105	118	56.2	39.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	110	93	101	18.3	8.9
UNCLASSIFIED	73	48	54	52.1	35.2

[a]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.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, January 2009



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, January 2009



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