

TRENDS

Is Wyoming's Workforce Development Training Fund Helping the State Retain Labor?

by: *Mark A. Harris, Ph.D., Sociologist, and Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst*

Participants attached to firms utilizing the Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund were more likely to have lower turnover and higher wages than other workers.

Wyoming's Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) represents a significant expenditure on human capital development. Between inception in April 1998 and July 1, 2004, \$5,573,110 had been spent from the WDTF on business training grants (G. Campagnaro, personal communication, February 17, 2005). An intended outcome of WDTF training is to provide support to Wyoming employers by making trained labor available. In order for the WDTF to be effective in this capacity, WDTF participants must remain active in Wyoming's labor market. Withdrawal from work or working in another state means that Wyoming does not reap the benefits of

training. This article summarizes firm characteristics (macro-level phenomena) among establishments by which trainees were employed as well as individual (micro-level) outcomes experienced by participants.

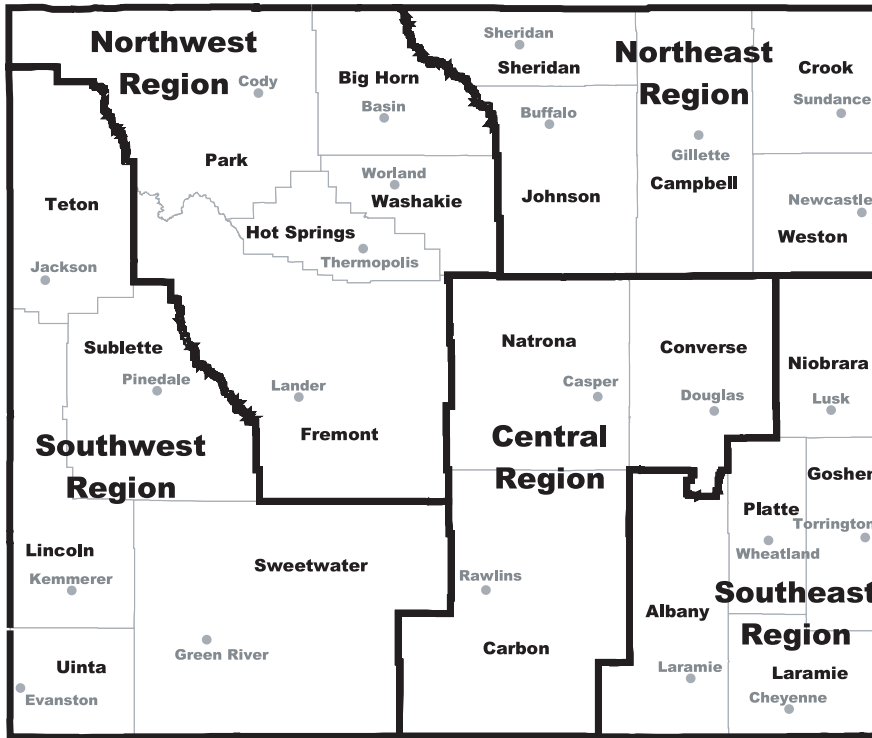
Identifying the employment context of program participants helps researchers and policy makers better interpret individual-level outcomes. For example, an analysis of individual-level labor market outcomes of program completers may indicate that participants largely fail to retain employment in the state. One may

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Employment increased in every [Wyoming] region during third quarter 2003....page 9**
- **Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (2.9% in February) was the lowest of all 50 states....page 17**
- **The over-the-month percentage decline in February initial unemployment insurance claims was the largest seen in at least eight years....page 22**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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conclude from this that training was ineffective for retaining employment and should be altered or terminated. Additional macro-level analysis may reveal, however, that for whatever reason trainees were employed in firms that were themselves unstable (e.g., characteristically high turnover, firms going out of business). In such a case, the inability to retain employment in the state may be more closely related to the instability of firms rather than the failure of training to imbue skills in individual trainees. A redirection of training recipients into more stable firms rather than modification or abandonment of the training program may increase worker retention in the state.

The WDTF went through a substantive rule change effective July 1, 2004 (Department of Workforce Services, 2004). This article examines firms and individual trainees who completed WDTF training contracts under prior rules. Additionally, the analysis reflects upon grants to a specific employer with intended employment for participants after training (i.e., referred to as Section 2 grants; Department of Workforce Services, 2004, p. 1-1) as opposed to training in high demand occupations (referred to as Section 3 grants; Department of Workforce Services, 2004, p. 1-4) not tied to a specific employer (e.g., training provided by a community college).

Data and Methodology

Firm-level research results were based on all employers who received funds from the WDTF at any time prior to the end of third quarter 2003 (2003Q3) and appeared in the Wage Records database in that quarter (2003Q3).

The individual-level statistical control group analysis was based on the 1,706

participants associated with WDTF employer contracts ending during Fiscal Year 1999 (FY1999; July 1, 1999 to July 30, 2000) to FY2002 and 381,621 non-participants randomly assigned to an ending year during the same time period. Some of the 1,706 individuals appeared in multiple WDTF employer contracts. When this occurred, data from the most recent employer contract were utilized. A number of participants and non-participants were excluded from the control group portion of the analysis because they did not meet pre-defined eligibility criteria.

Control group methodologies (Glover, 2002; Harris, 2002; Jones, 2004) show whether the labor market outcome experienced by program participants also occurred for matched individuals who did not receive training. If matched individuals had the same outcome as participants, training (or factors associated with training) did not cause the labor market outcome in question (i.e., retention in Wyoming's labor market in this case). Instead, the outcome was caused by some other factor (e.g., a strong economy related to a boom in oil and gas drilling).

Employment is defined as individuals who worked at any time during 2003Q3, which includes job switching and multiple job holding. The primary working designation is determined by the state that paid the most wages to workers during the fiscal year (e.g., Steve worked in Wyoming and Colorado in FY1999, but was paid more in Wyoming, so he was assigned as primarily working in Wyoming). Industry classifications were assigned using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes (Office of Management and Budget, 2002).

Data for this analysis came from: (a) WDTF programmatic data provided by the

Department of Workforce Services; (b) historical Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records data maintained by the Department of Employment, Research & Planning (R&P) which includes Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) based interstate wage records information from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah (see Map); (c) Wyoming Department of Transportation Driver's License data; and (d) data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW; Brennan, 2003; U.S. Department of Labor, 2003).

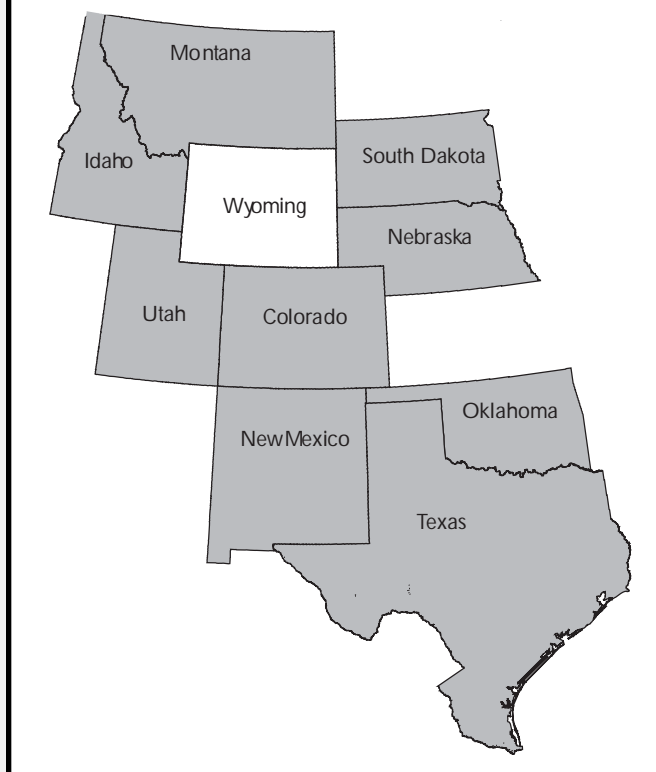
Data from the QCEW and Unemployment Insurance (UI) mainframe programs were used to visually inspect the UI account numbers provided in the WDTF database (Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, 2004), as some difficulty arose in the matching process due to incorrect account numbers. The information contained in this article does not describe a causal relationship between any employer descriptive attributes (e.g., turnover) and program utilization.

Readers may access additional detailed information, including more complete Methodology in the full report, *Occasional Paper No. 3: Workforce Development Training Fund Evaluation at the Macro and Micro Levels* (Harris & Leonard, 2005).

Results of Individual Matched Control Groups

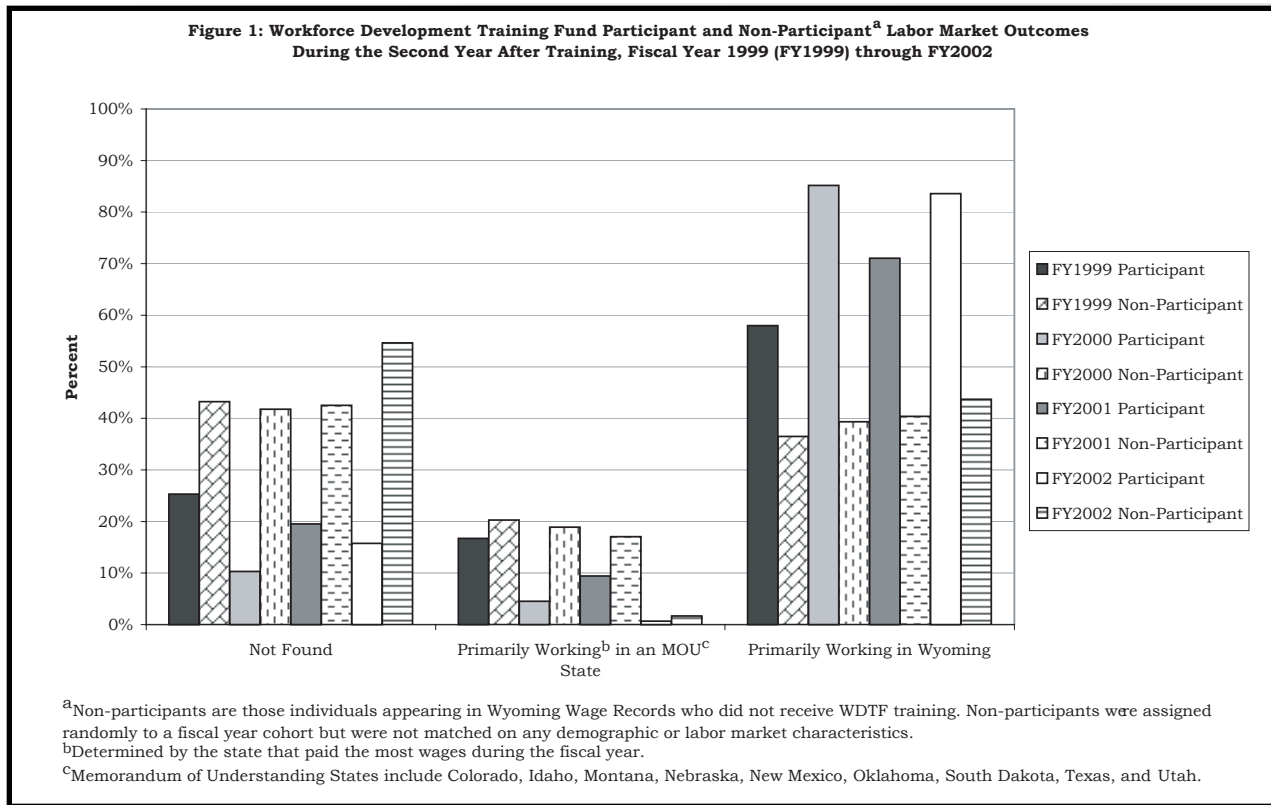
For all cohorts taken together, 75.8 percent of WDTF participants were working in Wyoming during the second year after training in comparison to 39.9 percent of non-participants (see Figure 1, page 5), representing a 35.9 percentage point difference. Across the four separate cohorts, percentage point differences between participants and non-participants

Map 1: States With Which Wyoming Holds Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to Share Wage Records



working in Wyoming range from 21.5 to 45.8. Among those who were not primarily working in Wyoming during the second year after training, more were not working than were primarily working in an MOU state. For WDTF participants, typically less than 10 percent of a cohort was working in an MOU state during the second year after training. Substantially more non-participants than participants were not working either in Wyoming or an MOU State. Percentage point differences here range from 17.9 to 38.9.

Figure 2 (see page 6) shows results for the control group analysis. The selection process in this analysis was inherently more likely to select resident workers with



a more stable work history (i.e., individuals with known age and gender who worked in Wyoming for at least two quarters prior to training). As expected, therefore, a higher percentage of selected participant and control group members worked in Wyoming in comparison to all participants and non-participants (compare Figures 1 and 2, above and page 6). The percentage point differences for those working in Wyoming between Figures 1 and 2 are much larger for non-participants than participants.

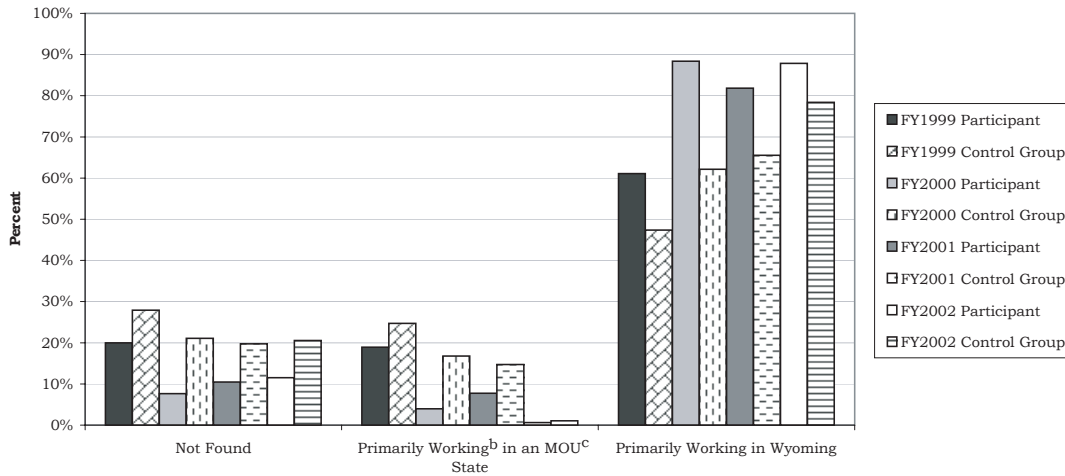
Selected WDTF participants were more likely to work in Wyoming two years after training than control group members (81.3% compared to 62.9% when examining all cohorts together, see Figure 2, page 6). Percentage point differences across the four cohorts range from 9.5 to

26.2. For all cohorts, 12.2 percent of selected participants and 22.4 percent of control group members were primarily working in an MOU state. Even fewer selected participants and control group members were not working in Wyoming or an MOU state (6.5% and 14.7%, respectively).

Results of Firm-Level Descriptive Analysis

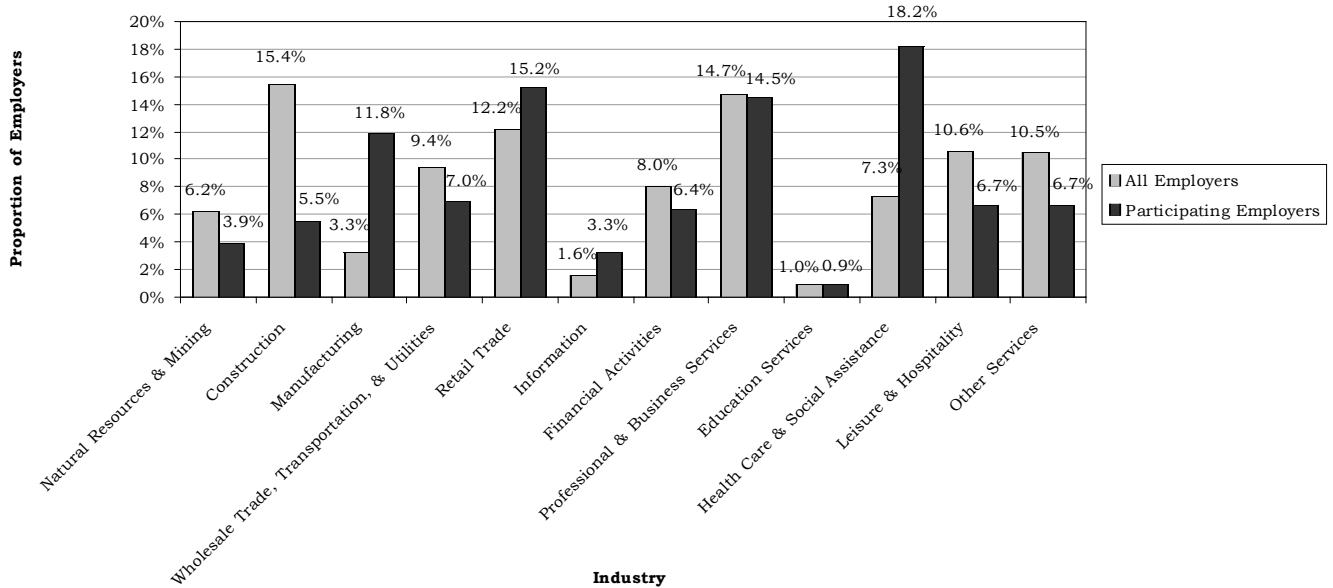
Figure 3 (see page 7) displays the distribution of WDTF and all Wyoming employers in 2003Q3. The chart indicates that the proportions of WDTF participating employers in Health Care & Social Assistance (18.2%), Manufacturing (11.8%), and Retail Trade (15.2%) were considerably higher than the statewide distribution of employers (7.3%, 3.3%, and

Figure 2: Workforce Development Training Fund Participant and Control Group^a Labor Market Outcomes During the Second Year After Training, Fiscal Year 1999 (FY1999) Through FY2002



^aParticipants and control group members were matched during the year prior to training using methodology derived from Glover, T. (2002, June). Compared to what? The purpose and method of control group selection. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*. Retrieved January 13, 2005, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0602/a2.htm>
^bDetermined by the state that paid the most wages during the fiscal year.
^cMemorandum of Understanding States include Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

Figure 3: Distribution of Employers by Industry and Workforce Development Training Fund Participation Status, Third Quarter 2003 (2003Q3)



Note: Total may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

12.2%, respectively). Conversely, industries where the opposite was true included Natural Resources & Mining, Construction, Leisure & Hospitality, and Other Services.

Turnover rates were considerably lower for workers in WDTF firms than for workers statewide (see Figure 4). The overall turnover rate for WDTF employers was 14.9 percent, compared to the turnover rate for workers statewide of 25.5 percent. The differences in turnover rates were particularly large in Natural Resources & Mining (18.3% compared to 6.8%), and Professional & Business Services (35.5% compared to 18.4%). In three industries, Information (17.7% compared to 16.1%), Education Services (30.8% compared to 12.9%), and Other Services (30.7% compared to 20.1%), turnover rates were higher for WDTF employers than for employers statewide.

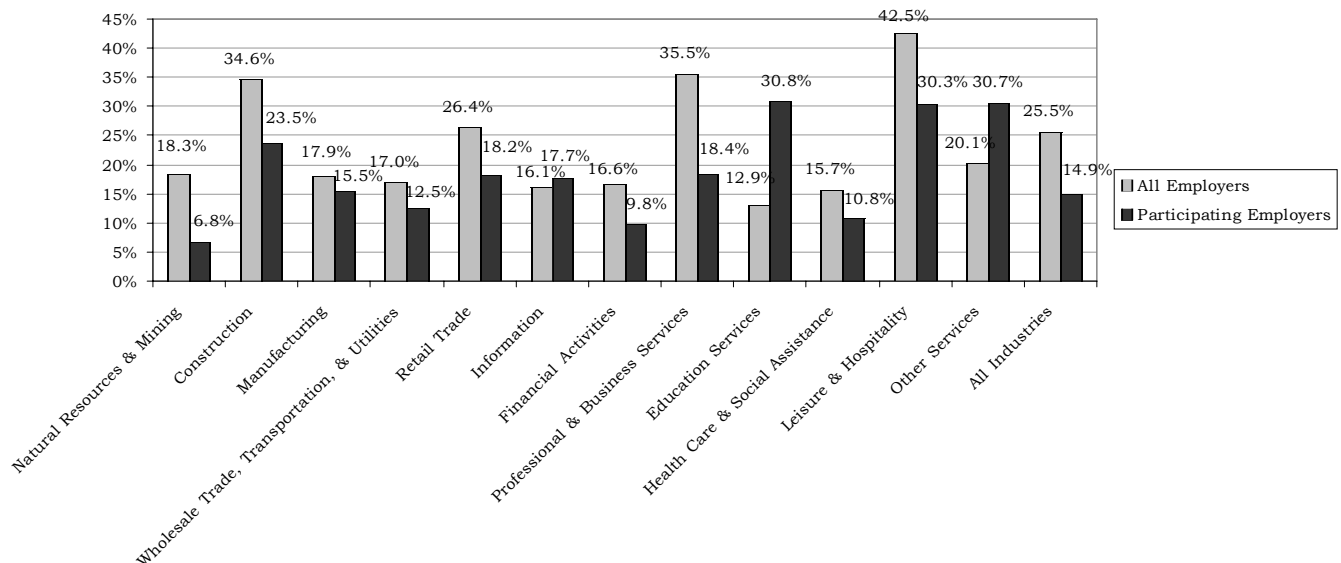
WDTF employers paid their workers 46.0 percent more than employers

statewide (see Figure 5, All Industries, page 8). While the differences in wages paid between WDTF participating and non-participating firms was smaller in Construction, Manufacturing, Financial Activities, and Health Care, substantial differences were observed in Natural Resources & Mining and Professional & Business Services.

Conclusions

Individual results indicate that WDTF participants were retained in Wyoming at rates higher than non-participants. Participants do not appear to be leaving and taking their skills to other states at rates higher than non-participants. These differences were not removed or accounted for when utilizing control group comparisons. Matched control group members were more likely to be found working in an MOU state or not working at all than participants. As such, it would appear that the WDTF program is working

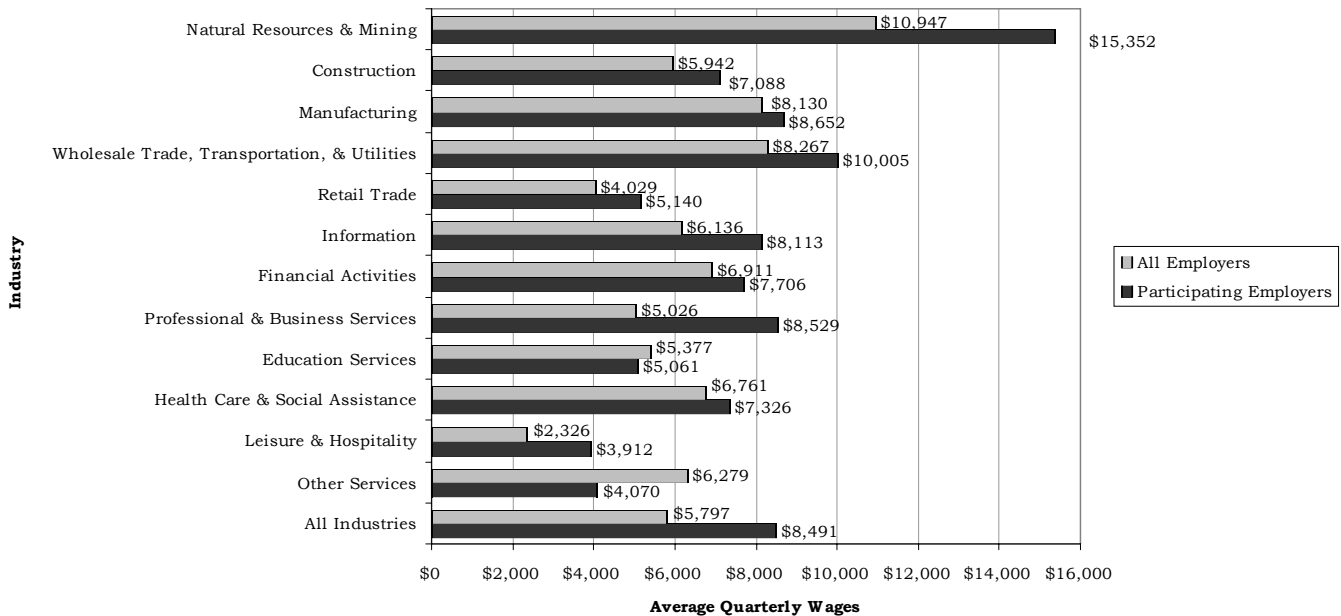
Figure 4: Turnover Rates^a by Industry and Employers' Workforce Development Training Fund Participation Status, Third Quarter 2003



Note: Total may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

^aSee Glover, T. & Leonard, D. (2003, December). Your firm's employee turnover: How to calculate it and how it compares. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*. Retrieved March 9, 2005, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/1203/a1.htm>

Figure 5: Average Worker Wages by Industry and Employers' Workforce Development Training Fund Participation Status, Third Quarter 2003



to retain labor in the state. Firm-level analysis correlates the results shown with individual participants. Participants attached to firms utilizing the WDTF were more likely to have higher retention and wages than other workers. The stability of firms within which WDTF participants were trained and employed likely contributes to their higher rates of retention in the state (e.g., a macro explanation of a micro phenomena).

Future Research

This research does not cover WDTF Section 3 Pre-employment Grants (Department of Workforce Services, 2004, pp. 1-4). Pre-employment trainees receive training in high demand occupations not tied to a specific employer with no guaranteed job at the end of training. Control group analyses would be useful in determining wage and retention outcomes among these participants. In addition to further analyses of individuals using

matched control groups, the same methodology could theoretically be applied to employers. In treating the employer as an "individual" it may be possible to determine whether or not employer participation in the WDTF impacts their descriptive traits not only for the variables used in the current analysis, but also for variables such as business survival rates. Another alternative would be to evaluate the characteristics of firms associated with control group members in comparison firms associated with selected participants.

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Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2004: Total Payroll Increases by 7.1 Percent

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

tables by: *Nancy Brennan, Economist*

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment increased by 5,040 jobs or 2.0 percent during third quarter 2004 compared to third quarter 2003. Third quarter's employment increase is consistent with the five-year average growth rate of 1.9 percent (see Table 1, page 10). Total payroll increased by \$130.2 million or 7.1 percent, slightly higher than its five-year average (5.7%). Average weekly wage increased by \$28 or 5.1 percent, slightly higher than its five-year average (3.7%). Additionally, employment increased in every region during third quarter.

Table 2 (page 10) shows that employment growth slowed slightly during

third quarter 2004. Total payroll continued to grow at about the same rate as in first and second quarters (see Figure, page 10). Part of the reason for the slight slowdown in employment growth is related to the unusual amount of construction activity that occurred during third quarter 2003. This year's employment figures for Construction indicate a return to more normal employment levels in that industry.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

The purpose of this article is to show employment and payroll changes between third quarter 2003 and third quarter 2004.

Table 1: Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter, 2000 to 2004 (2000Q3 to 2004Q3)

	Average Monthly Employment Percent Change		Total Wages Percent Change		Average Weekly Wage Percent Change	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
2000Q3	2.4	1.8	3.8	1.5	1.3	-0.3
2001Q3	3.4	2.5	9.3	2.6	5.7	0.1
2002Q3	0.5	2.0	3.5	1.3	3.0	-0.7
2003Q3	1.2	2.6	4.7	2.6	3.5	0.0
2004Q3	2.0	1.6	7.1	2.5	5.1	0.9
5-Year Average for Q3	1.9	2.1	5.7	2.1	3.7	0.0

These economic changes help us gauge the strength of Wyoming's economy and identify the fastest and slowest growing industries and geographic areas.

The largest job gains occurred in Mining, State Government, Health Care & Social Assistance, Local Government, and Transportation & Warehousing (see Table 3, page 11).

Mining added 1,773 jobs or 9.3 percent during third quarter. Higher energy prices have led to increased natural gas drilling activity.

The apparent increase in State Government employment and payroll resulted from the correction of a previous reporting error detected by a new payroll system in a unit of state government.

Table 2: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2002 (2002Q1) to 2004Q3

	Average Monthly Employment	Total Wages
2002Q1	1.6	6.5
2002Q2	0.7	4.7
2002Q3	0.5	3.5
2002Q4	0.4	2.4
2003Q1	0.1	2.6
2003Q2	0.5	3.3
2003Q3	1.2	4.7
2003Q4	1.7	5.9
2004Q1	3.1	7.3
2004Q2	3.0	7.2
2004Q3	2.0	7.1

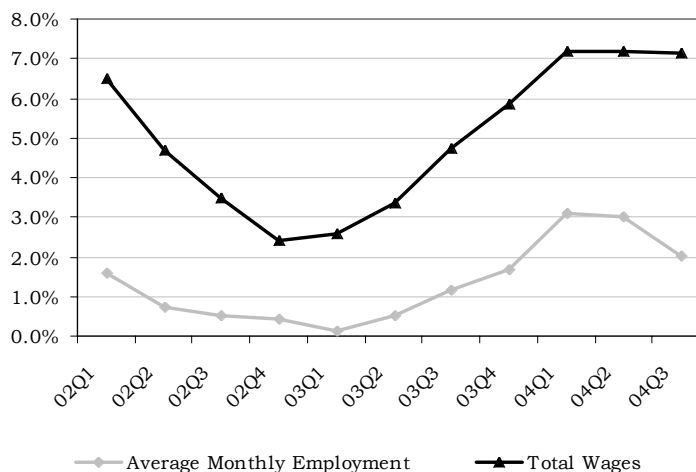
Figure: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages For First Quarter 2002 to Third Quarter 2004

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	249,876	254,916	5,040	2.0	\$1,826,879,228	\$1,957,127,352	\$130,248,124	7.1	\$562	\$591	\$28	5.0
Total Private (11-99)	194,522	197,564	3,042	1.6	\$1,383,189,239	\$1,478,632,657	\$95,443,418	6.9	\$547	\$576	\$29	5.3
Agriculture (11)	2,581	2,601	21	0.8	13,955,762	14,389,982	434,220	3.1	416	426	10	2.3
Mining (21)	19,062	20,835	1,773	9.3	260,227,079	298,738,618	38,511,539	14.8	1,050	1,103	53	5.0
Utilities (22)	2,173	2,227	55	2.5	32,834,419	35,272,364	2,437,945	7.4	1,162	1,218	56	4.8
Construction (23)	21,907	20,831	-1,076	-4.9	179,068,119	171,244,544	-7,823,575	-4.4	629	632	4	0.6
Manufacturing (31-33)	9,344	9,548	204	2.2	87,856,772	95,344,421	7,487,649	8.5	723	768	45	6.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	7,088	7,442	354	5.0	66,181,213	73,410,959	7,229,746	10.9	718	759	41	5.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	31,005	30,913	-92	-0.3	154,686,990	161,169,657	6,482,667	4.2	384	401	17	4.5
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	7,085	7,510	424	6.0	56,483,775	62,017,235	5,533,460	9.8	613	635	22	3.6
Information (51)	4,181	4,398	217	5.2	30,047,390	33,026,475	2,979,085	9.9	553	578	25	4.5
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,775	6,863	88	1.3	59,970,412	60,375,881	405,469	0.7	681	677	-4	-0.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,520	3,758	237	6.7	21,254,344	24,382,029	3,127,685	14.7	464	499	35	7.5
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,649	7,853	205	2.7	66,647,558	72,446,426	5,798,868	8.7	670	710	39	5.9
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	569	766	197 ^b	34.7	8,374,336	11,691,305	3,316,969	39.6	1,132	1,174	41	3.7
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	8,455	7,473	-982 ^c	-11.6	43,093,158	40,460,501	-2,632,657	-6.1	392	416	24	6.2
Educational Services (61)	1,270	1,348	78	6.2	7,491,027	8,352,495	861,468	11.5	454	477	23	5.0
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	18,670	19,462	792 ^d	4.2	138,109,446	152,168,684	14,059,238	10.2	569	601	32	5.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	3,288	3,367	78	2.4	11,978,147	12,774,345	796,198	6.6	280	292	12	4.2
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	32,287	32,640	353	1.1	102,921,061	109,297,334	6,376,273	6.2	245	258	12	5.0
Other Services (81)	7,614	7,730	117	1.5	42,008,231	42,069,402	61,171	0.1	424	419	-6	-1.4
Total Government	55,354	57,352	1,998	3.6	\$443,689,989	\$478,494,695	\$34,804,706	7.8	\$617	\$642	\$25	4.1
Federal Government	8,411	8,331	-80	-1.0	92,976,518	102,699,753	\$9,723,235	10.5	850	948	98	11.5
State Government	12,807	14,391	1,584^e	12.4	116,579,336	126,175,222	\$9,595,886^e	8.2	700	674	-26	-3.7
Local Government	34,136	34,630	494^f	1.4	234,134,135	249,619,720	\$15,485,585	6.6	528	554	27	5.1

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

^bNoneconomic code change employment increase of 160 from Mining (21) and Construction (23).

^cDecrease mostly due to various large employers' code changes from administrative & support services (561) to various subsectors.

^dIncrease partially due to large employer code change from administrative & support services (561) to social assistance (624). Large employer ownership change in nursing & residential care facilities (623) from private ownership to local government ownership.

^eThe apparent increases in State Government employment and payroll resulted from the correction of a previous reporting error detected by a new payroll system in a unit of state government.

^fIncrease due to large employer ownership change in nursing & residential care facilities (623) from private ownership to local government ownership.

Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance increased by 792 jobs or 4.2 percent. This industry was also affected by noneconomic code changes (see box accompanying this article on page 15). In particular, a large employer had its code changed from administrative & support services (NAICS 561) to social assistance (NAICS 624; see Table 3). Another large employer changed from private ownership to local government (and thus moved from Health Care & Social Assistance to Local Government).

Local Government employment grew by 494 jobs or 1.4 percent. Part of this increase was due to an ownership change

of a nursing & residential care facility (NAICS 623) from private ownership to local government control.

Transportation & Warehousing created 424 jobs (6.0%) during third quarter. Large gains were seen in truck transportation and warehousing & storage.

Although Table 3 shows that employment decreased by 982 jobs (or 11.6%) in Administrative & Waste Services, this is partially due to various large employers' code changes from Administrative & Support Services (NAICS 561) to various subsectors (including Health Care & Social Assistance). This

industry was also affected by layoffs at telemarketing firms.

Employment fell by 1,076 jobs or 4.9 percent in Construction. There was an unusual amount of construction activity during the late summer of 2003, and this year's employment levels indicate a return to more normal levels.

Employment in Management of Companies & Enterprises was affected by

noneconomic code changes of 160 employees from Mining and Construction.

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 4, employment increased in every region during third quarter.

Sweetwater County gained 961 jobs (or 4.9%) during third quarter. Mining (including oil & gas) continued to dominate

Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by Region and County, 2003 and 2004

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amount	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
TOTAL	249,876	254,916	5,040	2.0	\$1,826,879,228	\$1,957,127,352	\$130,248,124	7.1	\$562	\$591	\$28	5.0
NORTHWEST	38,731	39,018	286	0.7	\$238,900,542	\$255,165,441	\$16,264,899	6.8	\$474	\$503	\$29	6.0
Big Horn	4,178	4,393	215	5.1	29,195,181	30,691,289	1,496,108	5.1	538	537	0	0.0
Fremont	14,643	14,894	251	1.7	89,557,528	96,830,255	7,272,727	8.1	470	500	30	6.3
Hot Springs	1,917	1,894	-23	-1.2	10,194,392	10,292,179	97,787	1.0	409	418	9	2.2
Park	14,292	14,111	-180	-1.3	86,072,716	90,428,594	4,355,878	5.1	463	493	30	6.4
Washakie	3,702	3,726	24	0.7	23,880,725	26,923,124	3,042,399	12.7	496	556	60	12.0
NORTHEAST	40,141	41,198	1,057	2.6	\$319,919,017	\$352,787,680	\$32,868,663	10.3	\$613	\$659	\$46	7.4
Campbell	21,083	21,599	515	2.4	200,674,953	224,137,567	23,462,614	11.7	732	798	66	9.0
Crook	2,042	2,239	198	9.7	12,699,796	14,503,478	1,803,682	14.2	478	498	20	4.1
Johnson	3,093	3,187	95	3.1	17,341,618	18,403,406	1,061,788	6.1	431	444	13	3.0
Sheridan	11,784	11,998	214	1.8	75,799,890	81,812,200	6,012,310	7.9	495	525	30	6.0
Weston	2,139	2,174	35	1.6	13,402,760	13,931,029	528,269	3.9	482	493	11	2.3
SOUTHWEST	57,758	58,260	503	0.9	\$452,270,166	\$472,407,766	\$20,137,600	4.5	\$602	\$624	\$21	3.6
Lincoln	6,551	6,005	-547	-8.3	49,709,780	45,102,940	-4,606,840	-9.3	584	578	-6	-1.0
Sublette	3,090	3,358	268	8.7	20,959,911	25,174,954	4,215,043	20.1	522	577	55	10.5
Sweetwater	19,769	20,730	961	4.9	179,198,318	198,245,633	19,047,315	10.6	697	736	38	5.5
Teton	19,297	19,459	161	0.8	138,572,241	142,581,038	4,008,797	2.9	552	564	11	2.0
Uinta	9,049	8,709	-341	-3.8	63,829,916	61,303,201	-2,526,715	-4.0	543	541	-1	-0.2
SOUTHEAST	62,227	64,589	2,362	3.8	\$442,740,896	\$472,634,013	\$29,893,117	6.8	\$547	\$563	\$16	2.8
Albany	14,699	16,655	1,956	13.3	100,448,396	112,229,565	11,781,169	11.7	526	518	-7	-1.4
Goshen	3,839	3,898	59	1.5	21,791,798	22,763,790	971,992	4.5	437	449	13	2.9
Laramie	39,620	39,994	374	0.9	294,967,117	309,779,356	14,812,239	5.0	573	596	23	4.0
Niobrara	758	755	-3	-0.4	3,804,348	3,931,654	127,306	3.3	386	401	15	3.8
Platte	3,312	3,287	-25	-0.7	21,729,237	23,929,648	2,200,411	10.1	505	560	55	11.0
CENTRAL	45,031	46,932	1,901	4.2	\$320,769,090	\$361,448,788	\$40,679,698	12.7	\$548	\$592	\$44	8.1
Carbon	6,483	6,558	75	1.2	42,099,299	43,813,129	1,713,830	4.1	500	514	14	2.9
Converse	4,456	4,494	38	0.9	32,324,072	34,110,661	1,786,589	5.5	558	584	26	4.6
Natrona	34,092	35,880	1,788	5.2	246,345,719	283,524,998	37,179,279	15.1	556	608	52	9.4
Nonclassified ^a	5,988	4,920	-1,068	-17.8	\$52,279,517	\$42,683,664	-\$9,595,853	-18.4	\$672	\$667	-\$4	-0.6

^aThe employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

the job gains. Employment fell slightly in Construction and Manufacturing, but increased in Retail Trade, Transportation & Warehousing, and Accommodation & Food Services. Since early 2003, rapid growth in the oil & gas sector has been causing Sweetwater County to grow at a faster rate than the state as a whole.

Campbell County grew by 515 jobs or 2.4 percent in third quarter. Similar to the situation in Sweetwater County, job growth was strong in Mining (including oil & gas), but job losses were seen in Construction.

Sublette County added 268 jobs or 8.7 percent during third quarter. Job gains occurred in Mining (including oil & gas),

Construction, and Government. Since the beginning of 2002, Sublette County has been growing much faster than the rest of the state, mostly as a result of increased natural gas drilling.

Several counties had lower employment in third quarter 2004. Employment fell by 547 jobs or 8.3 percent in Lincoln County because of the completion of construction projects. Uinta County faced a similar situation with employment falling by 341 jobs or 3.8 percent. Park County's job losses were concentrated in Retail Trade and Accommodation & Food Services.

Employment grew by 1,788 jobs or 5.2 percent in Natrona County (see Table 5).

Table 5: Natrona County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter 2003	2004	Change No.	%	Third Quarter 2003	2004	Change Amount	%	Third Quarter 2003	2004	Change Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	34,092	35,880	1,788	5.2	\$246,345,719	\$283,524,998	\$37,179,279	15.1	\$556	\$608	\$52	9.4
Total Private (11-99)	29,268	30,984	1,716	5.9	\$209,151,399	\$243,730,195	\$34,578,796	16.5	\$550	\$605	\$55	10.1
Agriculture (11)	124	120	-5	-3.8	555,287	555,646	359	0.1	344	357	14	4.0
Mining (21)	2,562	3,198	636 ^b	24.8	29,900,505	40,709,224	10,808,719	36.1	898	979	81	9.1
Utilities (22)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Construction (23)	2,552	2,605	53 ^c	2.1	20,303,724	22,239,588	1,935,864	9.5	612	657	45	7.3
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,492	1,622	129	8.7	12,106,396	16,005,801	3,899,405 ^d	32.2	624	759	135	21.7
Wholesale Trade (42)	2,163	2,366	204	9.4	20,911,156	23,802,607	2,891,451	13.8	744	774	30	4.0
Retail Trade (44-45)	4,615	4,893	278	6.0	24,646,889	26,806,428	2,159,539	8.8	411	421	11	2.6
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	918	954	36	3.9	7,647,367	8,860,210	1,212,843	15.9	641	714	74	11.5
Information (51)	514	572	58	11.3	3,700,064	4,419,379	719,315	19.4	553	594	41	7.3
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,026	1,035	9	0.9	10,141,473	10,370,171	228,698	2.3	760	771	10	1.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	796	854	59	7.4	5,648,062	6,374,363	726,301	12.9	546	574	28	5.1
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,191	1,255	64	5.4	10,411,485	12,061,859	1,650,374	15.9	672	739	67	9.9
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	2,099	1,724	-376 ^e	-17.9	9,324,330	8,419,833	-904,497	-9.7	342	376	34	10.0
Educational Services (61)	98	100	2	2.0	378,761	379,998	1,237	0.3	298	293	-5	-1.7
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	4,280	4,515	235	5.5	34,180,552	40,219,390	6,038,838	17.7	614	685	71	11.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	468	569	101	21.6	1,375,509	1,893,787	518,278	37.7	226	256	30	13.2
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	2,966	3,074	108	3.6	7,856,608	8,956,813	1,100,205	14.0	204	224	20	10.0
Other Services (81)	1,302	1,355	52	4.0	8,487,959	8,766,814	278,855	3.3	501	498	-4	-0.7
Total Government	4,825	4,896	71	1.5	\$37,194,320	\$39,794,803	\$2,600,483	7.0	\$593	\$625	\$32	5.4
Federal Government	715	743	27	3.8	9,451,153	11,395,798	1,944,645	20.6	1,016	1,180	164	16.1
State Government	709	700	-10	-1.4	6,570,489	6,548,455	-22,034	-0.3	713	720	7	1.0
Local Government	3,400	3,454	54	1.6	21,172,678	21,850,550	677,872	3.2	479	487	8	1.6

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.
^bSeveral new employers. One large employer provided a more detailed breakout.
^cLarge employer breakout in heavy & civil engineering construction (237) from Lincoln County to Natrona County. Large employer in heavy & civil engineering construction (237) from Natrona County to Sublette County.
^dLarge bonus payment in this sector.
^eSeveral employer reclassifications and breakouts from administrative & support services (561) to various subsectors and counties.
 ND - Not discloseable due to confidentiality of information.

Again, Mining (including oil & gas) was responsible for the largest job gains (636 jobs or 24.8%). Other growing industries included Wholesale Trade (204 jobs or 9.4%), Retail Trade (278 jobs or 6.0%), Health Care & Social Assistance (235 jobs or 5.5%) and Accommodation & Food Services (108 jobs or 3.6%). The job losses in Administrative & Waste Services (-376 jobs or -17.9%) were partially related to employer reclassifications out of this sector, as well as real job losses in the telemarketing industry.

Laramie County grew at a somewhat slower pace than the state as a whole. Table 6 shows that it added 374 jobs for a growth rate of 0.9 percent. Healthy

employment growth appeared in Transportation & Warehousing (275 jobs or 20.0%), Health Care & Social Assistance (269 jobs or 9.6%), and Accommodation & Food Services (119 jobs or 2.8%). Job losses occurred in Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Information, Finance & Insurance, Management of Companies & Enterprises, Administrative & Waste Services, and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation.

In summary, Wyoming's economy grew at a healthy pace during third quarter. Mining (including oil & gas) experienced the strongest employment growth, but some growth was seen in almost every industry sector and in every region of the state.



Table 6: Laramie County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amount	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	39,620	39,994	374	0.9	\$294,967,117	\$309,779,356	\$14,812,239	5.0	\$573	\$596	23	4.0
Total Private (11-99)	27,743	27,998	255	0.9	\$182,312,013	\$190,877,851	\$8,565,838	4.7	\$506	\$524	\$19	3.7
Agriculture (11)	169	165	-4	-2.4	947,668	991,668	44,000	4.6	432	463	31	7.2
Mining (21)	36	74	38	106.5	354,147	784,717	430,570	121.6	764	819	56	7.3
Utilities (22)	114	118	3	2.9	1,617,756	1,654,503	36,747	2.3	1,088	1,082	-7	-0.6
Construction (23)	2,768	2,801	32	1.2	20,981,276	21,635,476	654,200	3.1	583	594	11	1.9
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,545	1,578	33	2.1	14,730,915	15,565,104	834,189	5.7	733	759	25	3.5
Wholesale Trade (42)	718	700	-19	-2.6	6,606,480	6,693,636	87,156	1.3	707	736	28	4.0
Retail Trade (44-45)	5,581	5,492	-89	-1.6	29,686,030	30,236,958	550,928	1.9	409	423	14	3.5
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	1,372	1,647	275	20.0	9,520,272	11,707,747	2,187,475	23.0	534	547	13	2.4
Information (51)	1,076	1,046	-29	-2.7	9,741,707	9,880,251	138,544	1.4	697	726	30	4.3
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,554	1,506	-49	-3.1	14,142,600	13,471,193	-671,407	-4.7	700	688	-12	-1.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	450	486	36	8.0	2,788,787	3,255,261	466,474	16.7	476	515	39	8.1
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,338	1,389	50	3.8	13,790,235	14,524,043	733,808	5.3	793	805	12	1.5
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	199	166	-33	-16.6	1,661,367	1,599,304	-62,063	-3.7	642	741	99	15.4
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	2,090	1,689	-401	-19.2	10,572,962	9,404,282	-1,168,680	-11.1	389	428	39	10.0
Educational Services (61)	88	100	12	14.0	344,832	495,857	151,025	43.8	301	380	79	26.1
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	2,812	3,081	269	9.6	24,304,785	27,404,819	3,100,034	12.8	665	684	19	2.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	301	247	-53	-17.7	803,123	801,985	-1,138	-0.1	205	249	44	21.4
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	4,258	4,378	119	2.8	12,598,210	13,514,171	915,961	7.3	228	237	10	4.3
Other Services (81)	1,272	1,335	63	5.0	7,118,861	7,256,876	138,015	1.9	431	418	-12	-2.9
Total Government	11,877	11,996	119	1.0	\$112,655,104	\$118,901,505	\$6,246,401	5.5	\$730	\$762	\$33	4.5
Federal Government	2,624	2,677	53	2.0	31,483,958	33,069,865	1,585,907	5.0	923	950	27	2.9
State Government	3,829	3,760	-70	-1.8	37,988,707	39,433,203	1,444,496	3.8	763	807	44	5.7
Local Government	5,424	5,559	135	2.5	43,182,439	46,398,437	3,215,998	7.4	612	642	30	4.8

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Comparability of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Data Over Time

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Each year, approximately one-third of employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they have been assigned to the correct industry category (e.g., Mining, Construction, Manufacturing) based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS; U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). If it is found that an employer has changed primary business activity, a different NAICS code is assigned to reflect that change. This is known as a noneconomic code change. Research staff also review employers' NAICS codes if the business is sold, becomes incorporated, or otherwise changes ownership. In this manner, Research & Planning continuously ensures that employers are assigned to the correct industry category. However, these noneconomic code changes also make it difficult for data users to make direct comparisons across years. Sometimes, large employers may move from one NAICS sector to another. For example, in Table 3 (see page 11), several employers were moved out of Administrative & Waste Services into other industries, explaining much of the employment decline in Administrative & Waste Services.

In a separate initiative to increase data quality, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages unit has

contacted many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within appropriate counties. This data quality effort has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation, and corresponding employment increases in many counties throughout the state (see Table 4, page 12). While the long-run result will be higher-quality data, initially some of the employment increases at the county level may simply be the result of more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs in the counties. An example of this involves a large employer in the oil & gas sector that recently started reporting employment on a county, rather than a statewide basis. This has increased Mining employment in Sweetwater, Natrona, Washakie, and Uinta counties.

References

U.S. Census Bureau. (2002, September 10). 2002 *NAICS Codes and Titles*. Retrieved December 18, 2003, from <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm>



Wyoming Unemployment Falls to 2.9 Percent in February

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.4 percent in January to 2.9 percent in February. It remained well below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.4 percent. Despite falling unemployment, Wyoming's civilian labor force (the sum of all employed and unemployed individuals) grew at a modest pace, increasing by 2,895 people or 1.0 percent from its February 2004 level. The overall growth in Wyoming's economy appears to be related to relatively high energy prices, and has led to job gains in the Natural Resources & Mining sector.

From January to February, Wyoming gained 300 jobs (0.1%). Seasonal job losses in Manufacturing (-400 jobs or -4.1%) were more than offset by gains in Educational & Health Services (300 jobs or 1.4%), Leisure & Hospitality (300 jobs or 1.0%), and Government (500 jobs or 0.8%).

Employment rose by 5,900 jobs or 2.4 percent when compared to February

2004. Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) continued to grow at a rapid pace, adding 2,600 jobs or 13.7 percent. Other growing sectors included Manufacturing (300 jobs or 3.3%), Wholesale Trade (200 jobs or 2.8%), Retail Trade (200 jobs or 0.7%), Transportation & Utilities (200 jobs or 1.7%), Financial Activities (200 jobs or 2.0%), Educational & Health Services (900 jobs or 4.3%), and Leisure & Hospitality (800 jobs or 2.8%). No major sectors lost jobs when compared with February 2004 employment levels.

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, almost all unemployment rates decreased from January to February. Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate in February (5.4%) and it was followed closely by Platte (5.3%) and Fremont (5.1%) counties. Sublette County had the lowest unemployment rate (2.1%), followed by Campbell (2.7%) and Albany (2.8%) counties.

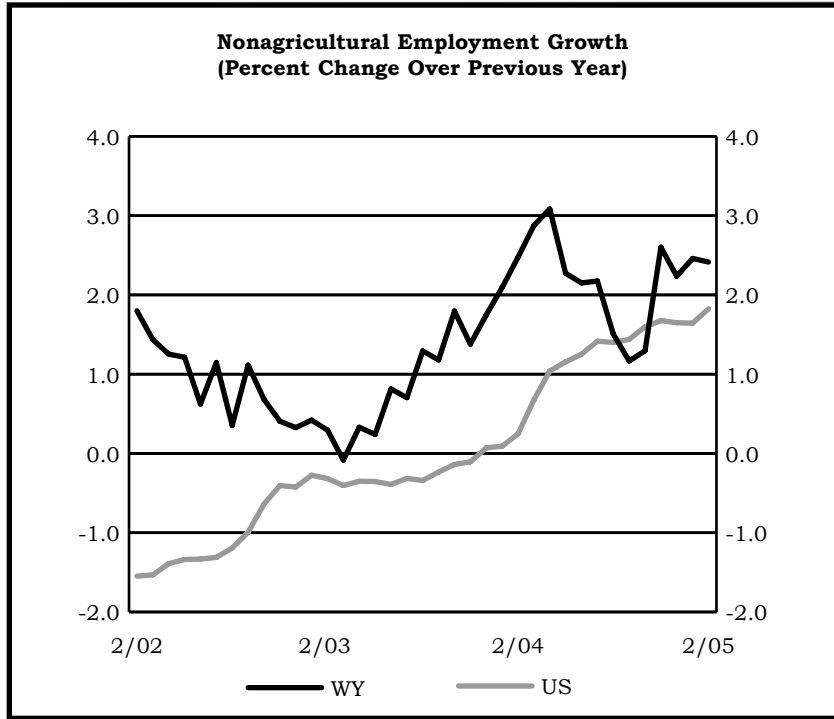


What's New?

Local Occupational Employment and Wage Rates

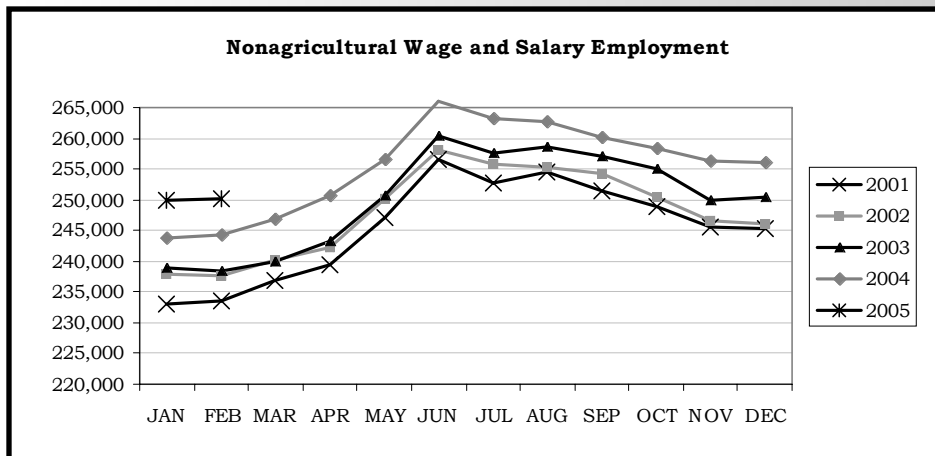
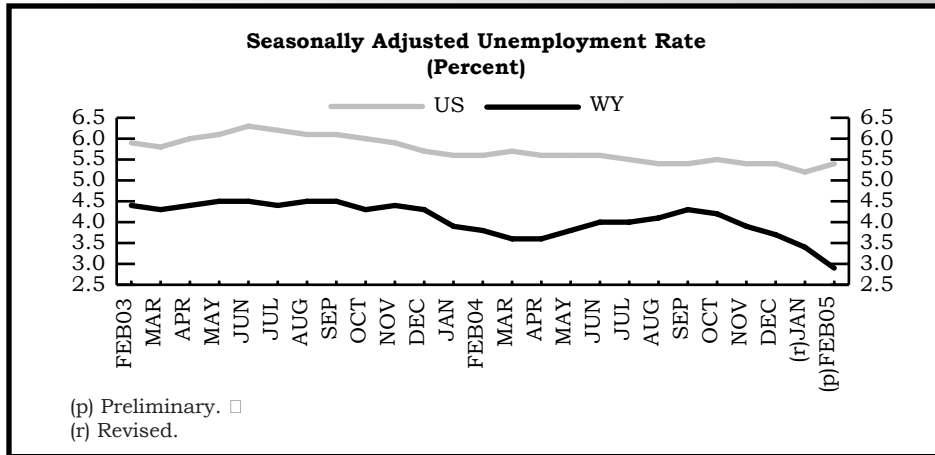
The newest Wyoming Occupational Employment Statistics wage and employment estimates are now available online only at:

<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/20042pub/tes/TOC000.htm>



State Unemployment Rates February 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.6
District of Columbia	8.2
Michigan	7.5
Alaska	7.2
South Carolina	7.1
Mississippi	6.8
Oregon	6.6
Ohio	6.4
Louisiana	6.0
Texas	6.0
Illinois	5.9
Tennessee	5.9
California	5.8
Missouri	5.8
Indiana	5.7
New Mexico	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
Washington	5.5
Kansas	5.4
North Carolina	5.4
United States	5.4
Alabama	5.2
Kentucky	5.2
Pennsylvania	5.2
Georgia	5.1
Iowa	5.1
New York	5.1
West Virginia	5.0
Colorado	4.9
Massachusetts	4.9
Wisconsin	4.9
Connecticut	4.8
Utah	4.8
Maine	4.7
Florida	4.5
Montana	4.5
Arizona	4.4
New Jersey	4.4
Rhode Island	4.4
Maryland	4.2
Minnesota	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Delaware	4.1
Idaho	4.1
Nebraska	3.9
Nevada	3.9
New Hampshire	3.8
South Dakota	3.7
Vermont	3.6
North Dakota	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Hawaii	3.0
Wyoming	2.9



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) continued to grow at a rapid pace, adding 2,600 jobs or 13.7 percent.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Jan05(r)		Feb04(b)		Jan05	Feb04	Jan05(r)		Feb04(b)		Jan05	Feb04			
	Feb05(p)	Jan05(r)	Feb04(b)	Feb05	Feb05	Feb05(p)	Jan05(r)		Feb04(b)	Feb05	Feb05				
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	250.2	249.9	244.3	0.1	2.4			40.3	40.3	39.8	0.0	1.3			
TOTAL PRIVATE	185.5	185.7	179.7	-0.1	3.2			27.6	27.6	27.4	0.0	0.7			
GOODS PRODUCING	47.6	47.9	44.6	-0.6	6.7			4.1	4.1	3.9	0.0	5.1			
Natural Resources & Mining	21.6	21.4	19.0	0.9	13.7			2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2			
Mining	21.5	21.3	18.9	0.9	13.8			1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7			
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.5	3.5	3.3	0.0	6.1										
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.5	7.5	7.3	0.0	2.7										
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	2.1										
Support Activities for Mining	10.5	10.3	8.3	1.9	26.5										
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	6.9	6.8	5.6	1.5	23.2										
Construction	16.7	16.8	16.6	-0.6	0.6										
Construction of Buildings	3.6	3.7	3.7	-2.7	-2.7										
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	4.1	3.9	4.2	5.1	-2.4										
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.0	9.2	8.7	-2.2	3.4										
Manufacturing	9.3	9.7	9.0	-4.1	3.3										
Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.7	0.0	6.4										
Non-Durable Goods	4.3	4.7	4.3	-8.5	0.0										
SERVICE PROVIDING	202.6	202.0	199.7	0.3	1.5			12.7	12.7	12.4	0.0	2.4			
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	48.0	48.5	47.4	-1.0	1.3			2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8			
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.5	7.2	-1.3	2.8			3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0			
Merchant Whslsrs., Durable	4.6	4.5	4.3	2.2	7.0			6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0	3.4			
Retail Trade	28.8	29.0	28.6	-0.7	0.7			3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1			
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.2	4.3	4.1	-2.3	2.4										
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0										
Food & Beverage Stores	4.7	4.8	4.6	-2.1	2.2										
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0										
Gasoline Stations	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0										
General Merchandise Stores	5.4	5.5	5.5	-1.8	-1.8										
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0										
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	11.8	12.0	11.6	-1.7	1.7										
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0										
Transportation & Warehousing	9.6	9.8	9.4	-2.0	2.1										
Truck Transportation	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.9	9.4										
Information	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0										
Financial Activities	10.4	10.5	10.2	-1.0	2.0										
Finance & Insurance	6.8	6.9	6.8	-1.4	0.0										
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.6	3.6	3.4	0.0	5.9										
Professional & Business Services	14.5	14.4	14.3	0.7	1.4										
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	7.6	7.6	7.5	0.0	1.3										
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.0	2.1	2.0	-4.8	0.0										
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3										
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	6.1	6.0	6.1	1.7	0.0										
Educational & Health Services	22.0	21.7	21.1	1.4	4.3										
Educational	2.1	2.0	2.1	5.0	0.0										
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.9	19.7	19.0	1.0	4.7										
Ambulatory Health Care	7.5	7.5	7.1	0.0	5.6										
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9										
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0										
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8										
Social Assistance	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.0	6.1										
Leisure & Hospitality	29.0	28.7	28.2	1.0	2.8										
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0										
Accommodation & Food Services	26.8	26.5	26.0	1.1	3.1										
Accommodation	9.6	9.5	9.3	1.1	3.2										
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.2	17.0	16.7	1.2	3.0										
Other Services	9.7	9.7	9.6	0.0	1.0										
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9										
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	64.7	64.2	64.6	0.8	0.2			5.7	5.6	5.7	1.8	0.0			
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.1	0.0	0.0			0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0			
State Government	15.4	15.7	15.4	-1.9	0.0			0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0			
State Govt. Education	6.3	6.4	6.2	-1.6	1.6			4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0			
Local Government	42.2	41.4	42.1	1.9	0.2			2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3			
Local Govt. Education	22.4	21.9	22.4	2.3	0.0										
Hospitals	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6										

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

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

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Feb05(p)	Jan05(r)	Feb04(b)	Jan05	Feb04
				Feb05	Feb05
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.8	21.8	21.1	0.0	3.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.8	17.8	17.2	0.0	3.5
GOODS PRODUCING	8.7	8.7	8.2	0.0	6.1
Natural Resources & Mining	6.4	6.4	5.9	0.0	8.5
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.1	13.1	12.9	0.0	1.6
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.0	4.0	3.9	0.0	2.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.0	4.0	3.9	0.0	2.6
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.2	21.1	20.0	0.5	6.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.0	16.9	15.9	0.6	6.9
GOODS PRODUCING	6.8	6.8	6.3	0.0	7.9
Natural Resources & Mining	4.4	4.4	3.9	0.0	12.8
Construction	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.4	14.3	13.7	0.7	5.1
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	0.9	0.9	11.1	11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.3	2.0	0.0	15.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.4	15.6	15.5	-1.3	-0.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.3	13.4	13.3	-0.7	0.0
GOODS PRODUCING	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.6	13.8	13.6	-1.4	0.0
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.3	1.4	1.3	-7.1	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.5	-4.5

State Unemployment Rates February 2005 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.0
Alaska	8.4
District of Columbia	8.2
Michigan	8.0
South Carolina	7.6
Oregon	7.5
Ohio	7.2
Mississippi	6.9
Illinois	6.5
Indiana	6.4
Missouri	6.4
Washington	6.4
Arkansas	6.3
Tennessee	6.3
West Virginia	6.3
California	6.1
Kentucky	6.1
Texas	6.1
Pennsylvania	6.0
Iowa	5.9
Louisiana	5.9
North Carolina	5.9
New Mexico	5.8
United States	5.8
Wisconsin	5.8
Maine	5.7
Kansas	5.6
New York	5.6
Alabama	5.5
Montana	5.5
Colorado	5.3
Connecticut	5.3
Georgia	5.3
Massachusetts	5.3
Rhode Island	5.3
Utah	5.3
Idaho	5.2
New Jersey	4.9
Oklahoma	4.8
Minnesota	4.7
Maryland	4.6
Delaware	4.5
Florida	4.5
Arizona	4.4
Nebraska	4.4
New Hampshire	4.3
South Dakota	4.3
Nevada	4.2
Vermont	4.2
North Dakota	4.1
Wyoming	3.8
Virginia	3.6
Hawaii	2.7

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

Earnings in Wyoming Manufacturing show a much stronger over-the-year increase (35.9%) than in the U.S. (1.6%).

	Feb 2005 (p)	Jan 2005 (r)	Feb 2004 (b)	Percent Change	
				Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	279,665	280,181	276,769	-0.2	1.0
Unemployed	10,726	12,882	12,864	-16.7	-16.6
Employed	268,938	267,299	263,905	0.6	1.9
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.8%/2.9%	4.6%/3.4%	4.6%/3.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.8%/5.4%	5.7%/5.2%	6.0%/5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,667,000	7,225,000	7,235,000	6.1	6.0
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.2%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	485,000	515,000	484,000	-5.8	0.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,487,000	4,903,000	4,764,000	-8.5	-5.8
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,079.95	\$1,082.85	\$949.76	-0.3	13.7
Average Weekly Hours	45.3	45.1	42.4	0.4	6.8
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$858.19	\$874.10	\$816.52	-1.8	5.1
Average Weekly Hours	45.6	46.2	44.4	-1.3	2.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$769.20	\$663.38	\$566.08	16.0	35.9
Average Weekly Hours	42.9	39.3	34.9	9.2	22.9
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$662.16	\$665.84	\$651.98	-0.6	1.6
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.6	40.8	-0.5	-1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	17,535	18,272	20,879	-4.0	-16.0
Benefits Paid	\$4,187,267	\$4,415,577	\$4,900,592	-5.2	-14.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$238.79	\$241.66	\$234.71	-1.2	1.7
State Insured Covered Jobs	227,790	227,809	225,072	0.0	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.1%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	189.3	189.5	184.5	-0.1	2.6
Housing	192.7	191.8	187.0	0.5	3.0
Apparel	118.7	116.1	118.6	2.2	0.1
Transportation	166.1	164.0	158.8	1.3	4.6
Medical Care	319.3	316.8	306.0	0.8	4.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	109.0	108.9	108.4	0.1	0.6
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	112.8	112.7	111.2	0.1	1.4
Other Goods & Services	310.8	309.3	302.3	0.5	2.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	151.6	150.9	142.1	0.5	6.7
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	168	146	140	15.1	20.0
Valuation	\$23,585,000	\$19,579,000	\$22,744,000	20.5	3.7
Single Family Homes	140	119	135	17.6	3.7
Valuation	\$22,087,000	\$17,114,000	\$21,781,000	29.1	1.4
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	68	76	64	-10.5	6.3

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Economist

Big Horn County posted the highest unemployment rate in February (5.4%), followed closely by Platte (5.3%) and Fremont (5.1%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb 2005 (p)	Jan 2005 (r)	Feb 2004 (b)	Feb 2005 (p)	Jan 2005 (r)	Feb 2004 (b)	Feb 2005 (p)	Jan 2005 (r)	Feb 2004 (b)	Feb 2005 (p)	Jan 2005 (r)	Feb 2004 (b)
NORTHWEST	43,856	44,081	43,425	41,726	41,614	40,873	2,130	2,467	2,552	4.9	5.6	5.9
Big Horn	5,315	5,383	5,252	5,028	5,055	4,943	287	328	309	5.4	6.1	5.9
Fremont	17,899	17,986	17,758	16,983	16,886	16,585	916	1,100	1,173	5.1	6.1	6.6
Hot Springs	2,304	2,307	2,383	2,210	2,201	2,266	94	106	117	4.1	4.6	4.9
Park	14,044	14,061	13,890	13,420	13,330	13,149	624	731	741	4.4	5.2	5.3
Washakie	4,294	4,344	4,142	4,085	4,142	3,930	209	202	212	4.9	4.7	5.1
NORTHEAST	48,797	48,895	48,294	47,130	46,881	46,229	1,667	2,014	2,065	3.4	4.1	4.3
Campbell	23,471	23,450	23,275	22,840	22,686	22,446	631	764	829	2.7	3.3	3.6
Crook	3,090	3,132	2,956	2,967	2,974	2,800	123	158	156	4.0	5.0	5.3
Johnson	3,659	3,685	3,580	3,503	3,507	3,406	156	178	174	4.3	4.8	4.9
Sheridan	15,443	15,479	15,369	14,816	14,721	14,617	627	758	752	4.1	4.9	4.9
Weston	3,134	3,149	3,114	3,004	2,993	2,960	130	156	154	4.1	5.0	4.9
SOUTHWEST	57,358	57,703	56,779	55,404	55,306	54,448	1,954	2,397	2,331	3.4	4.2	4.1
Lincoln	8,714	8,756	9,132	8,371	8,351	8,726	343	405	406	3.9	4.6	4.4
Sublette	4,326	4,357	4,131	4,233	4,251	4,014	93	106	117	2.1	2.4	2.8
Sweetwater	22,056	22,094	21,454	21,344	21,208	20,586	712	886	868	3.2	4.0	4.0
Teton	11,853	11,944	11,261	11,464	11,460	10,831	389	484	430	3.3	4.1	3.8
Uinta	10,409	10,552	10,801	9,992	10,036	10,291	417	516	510	4.0	4.9	4.7
SOUTHEAST	75,367	75,183	75,189	72,388	71,591	71,759	2,979	3,592	3,430	4.0	4.8	4.6
Albany	20,973	20,489	21,053	20,379	19,770	20,322	594	719	731	2.8	3.5	3.5
Goshen	5,817	5,868	5,750	5,544	5,554	5,436	273	314	314	4.7	5.4	5.5
Laramie	43,382	43,571	43,143	41,534	41,331	41,079	1,848	2,240	2,064	4.3	5.1	4.8
Niobrara	1,088	1,107	1,125	1,041	1,051	1,073	47	56	52	4.3	5.1	4.6
Platte	4,107	4,148	4,118	3,890	3,885	3,849	217	263	269	5.3	6.3	6.5
CENTRAL	54,287	54,322	53,082	52,290	51,908	50,596	1,997	2,414	2,486	3.7	4.4	4.7
Carbon	7,470	7,545	7,579	7,136	7,169	7,137	334	376	442	4.5	5.0	5.8
Converse	6,343	6,371	6,404	6,081	6,053	6,082	262	318	322	4.1	5.0	5.0
Natrona	40,474	40,406	39,099	39,073	38,686	37,377	1,401	1,720	1,722	3.5	4.3	4.4
STATEWIDE	279,664	280,181	276,769	268,938	267,299	263,905	10,726	12,882	12,864	3.8	4.6	4.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										2.9	3.4	3.8
U.S.....										5.8	5.7	6.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.4	5.2	5.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/05. Run Date 3/05.

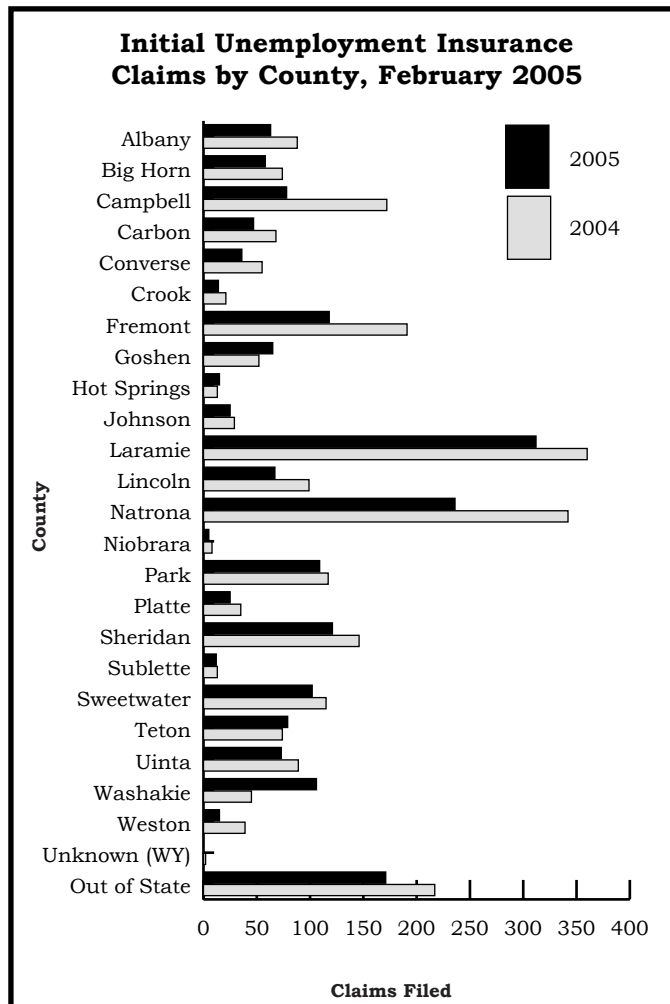
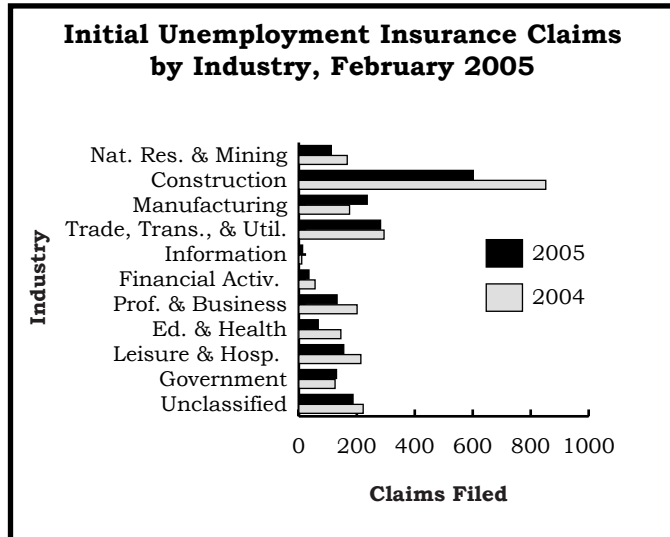
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

February initial claims fell by 20.7 percent over the month and 39.0 percent over the year. The over-the-month percentage decline was the largest seen in at least eight years.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Feb05	Jan05	Feb04	Feb05
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,951	3,200	2,461	-39.0 -20.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	950	1,458	1,194	-34.8 -20.4
Natural Resources and Mining	112	192	167	-41.7 -32.9
Mining	103	173	148	-40.5 -30.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	6	13	16	-53.8 -62.5
Construction	602	1,120	852	-46.3 -29.3
Manufacturing	236	146	175	61.6 34.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	722	1,290	958	-44.0 -24.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	282	440	294	-35.9 -4.1
Wholesale Trade	34	39	37	-12.8 -8.1
Retail Trade	175	267	161	-34.5 8.7
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	73	134	96	-45.5 -24.0
Information	13	23	10	-43.5 30.0
Financial Activities	35	69	56	-49.3 -37.5
Professional & Business Serv.	132	218	201	-39.4 -34.3
Educational & Health Services	67	95	145	-29.5 -53.8
Leisure & Hospitality	155	382	214	-59.4 -27.6
Other Services	38	63	38	-39.7 0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	130	261	125	-50.2 4.0
Federal Government	49	128	48	-61.7 2.1
State Government	15	32	21	-53.1 -28.6
Local Government	66	101	56	-34.7 17.9
Local Education	16	17	17	-5.9 -5.9
UNCLASSIFIED	149	191	184	-22.0 -19.0

LARAMIE COUNTY

	Feb05	Jan05	Feb04	Feb05
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	310	426	359	-27.2 -13.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	154	216	164	-28.7 -6.1
Construction	134	195	135	-31.3 -0.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	122	173	159	-29.5 -23.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	55	76	39	-27.6 41.0
Financial Activities	4	21	14	-81.0 -71.4
Professional & Business Serv.	26	31	69	-16.1 -62.3
Educational & Health Services	6	14	15	-57.1 -60.0
Leisure & Hospitality	23	20	17	15.0 35.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21	25	19	-16.0 10.5
UNCLASSIFIED	13	12	17	8.3 -23.5

NATRONA COUNTY

	Feb05	Jan05	Feb04	Feb05
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	232	406	341	-42.9 -32.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	102	206	186	-50.5 -45.2
Construction	82	156	149	-47.4 -45.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	115	179	141	-35.8 -18.4
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	44	53	44	-17.0 0.0
Financial Activities	8	10	12	-20.0 -33.3
Professional & Business Serv.	16	50	35	-68.0 -54.3
Educational & Health Services	18	20	30	-10.0 -40.0
Leisure & Hospitality	16	33	15	-51.5 6.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	10	9	3	11.1 233.3
UNCLASSIFIED	5	12	11	-58.3 -54.5

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

February continued claims declined 3.8 percent over the month, the only over-the-month decline in eight years. February's continued claims level was the third lowest in eight years.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Percent Change				
	Claims Filed		Claims Filed		
	Feb05	Jan05	Feb04	Feb05	Feb05
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	21,570	22,421	24,994	-3.8	-13.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,451	7,046	7,476	-8.4	-13.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	8,575	9,288	11,309	-7.7	-24.2
Natural Resources and Mining	1,104	1,205	1,337	-8.4	-17.4
Mining	814	887	1,122	-8.2	-27.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	90	109	154	-17.4	-41.6
Construction	6,444	7,230	8,544	-10.9	-24.6
Manufacturing	1,027	853	1,428	20.4	-28.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	9,093	9,042	9,534	0.6	-4.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	2,593	2,450	2,718	5.8	-4.6
Wholesale Trade	398	393	394	1.3	1.0
Retail Trade	1,478	1,368	1,612	8.0	-8.3
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	717	689	712	4.1	0.7
Information	392	376	166	4.3	136.1
Financial Activities	434	425	513	2.1	-15.4
Professional & Business Serv.	2,036	2,068	2,362	-1.5	-13.8
Educational & Health Serv.	740	794	764	-6.8	-3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2,492	2,597	2,626	-4.0	-5.1
Other Services	406	332	385	22.3	5.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,445	2,422	2,536	0.9	-3.6
Federal Government	1,346	1,439	1,300	-6.5	3.5
State Government	286	232	261	23.3	9.6
Local Government	813	751	975	8.3	-16.6
Local Education	126	127	174	-0.8	-27.6
UNCLASSIFIED	1,457	1,669	1,615	-12.7	-9.8

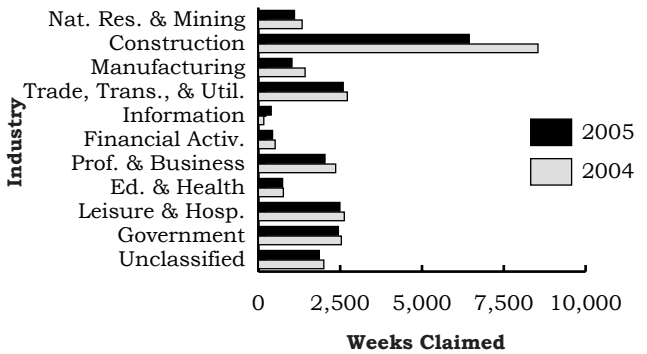
LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,228	3,578	3,469	-9.8	-6.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	980	1,110	1,058	-11.7	-7.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,301	1,582	1,602	-17.8	-18.8
Construction	1,180	1,366	1,372	-13.6	-14.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,549	1,613	1,441	-4.0	7.5
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	483	463	411	4.3	17.5
Financial Activities	111	95	130	16.8	-14.6
Professional & Business Serv.	400	449	493	-10.9	-18.9
Educational & Health Services	130	168	148	-22.6	-12.2
Leisure & Hospitality	122	142	155	-14.1	-21.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	274	262	289	4.6	-5.2
UNCLASSIFIED	104	121	137	-14.0	-24.1

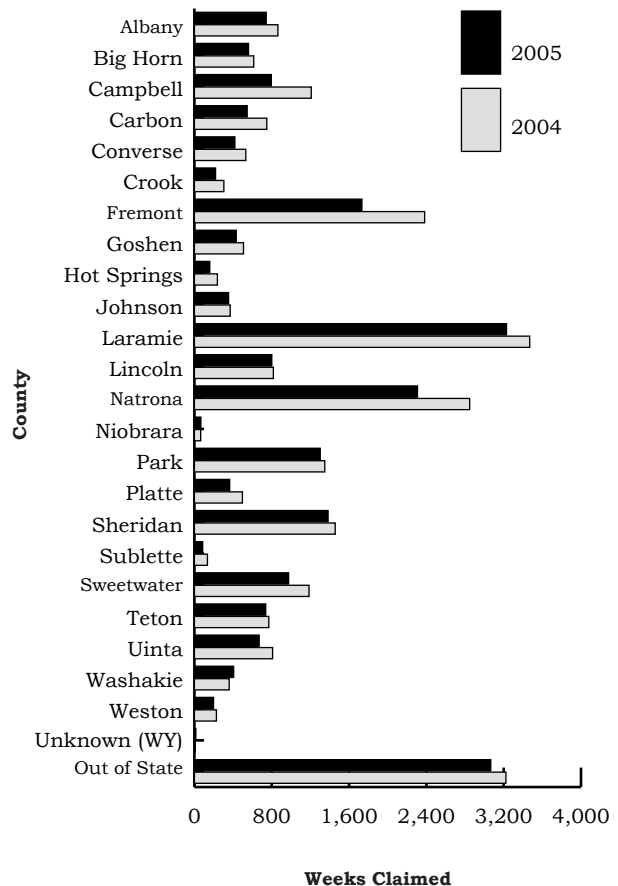
NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,308	2,736	2,848	-15.6	-19.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	711	898	892	-20.8	-20.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	942	1,393	1,306	-32.4	-27.9
Construction	758	1,166	1,100	-35.0	-31.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,183	1,124	1,324	5.2	-10.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	398	359	389	10.9	2.3
Financial Activities	98	110	81	-10.9	21.0
Professional & Business Serv.	315	326	411	-3.4	-23.4
Educational & Health Services	130	99	195	31.3	-33.3
Leisure & Hospitality	154	178	192	-13.5	-19.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	110	109	127	0.9	-13.4
UNCLASSIFIED	73	110	91	-33.6	-19.8

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, February 2005



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, February 2005



Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
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