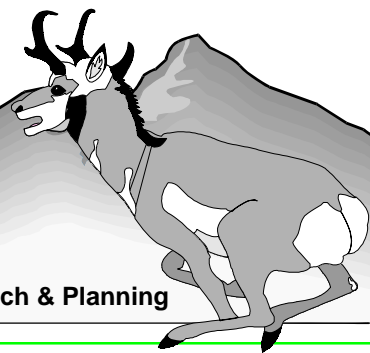


# Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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## Employee Benefits Survey 2000

by: Carola Cowan, Economist

**"In Wyoming, total compensation was comprised of 81.2 percent wages and salaries and 18.8 percent benefits."**

**T**he Employee Benefits Survey 2000 found that the amount and type of benefits employees receive are associated with industry type, company size and whether employees work full- or part-time. This article reports the summary results of four quarters of data collected on employee benefits in the year 2000. Previously, we looked at the number of employers providing benefits.<sup>1</sup> This time we will look at how many employees receive benefits. Out of 1,600 employers surveyed, 970 employers responded for a response rate of 60.1 percent. Thank you to all respondents who helped us make this survey a success!

The employee benefits survey complements the Occupational

Employment Statistics (OES) wage survey Research & Planning (R&P) conducts on an annual basis and assists employers and employees in determining whether they are providing and receiving competitive compensation (wages and benefits).<sup>2</sup>

Rising healthcare costs and the controversy surrounding the availability of Social Security benefits in the future have increased the importance of benefits such as health insurance and retirement plans. A serious illness can be financially devastating to anyone lacking health insurance. Many people also do not want to rely exclusively on Social Security when it comes to their retirement. Thus, benefits may be a major reason why certain employers are more attractive

to workers than others, particularly workers with families.<sup>3</sup>

### Results

Unlike OES, which collects wage data with a reference period for the fourth quarter only, the benefits survey collects data for each quarter of the year. The results were weighted by response rate to adjust for non-response. They were also weighted against employment data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES). This was done to account for employment differences between the distribution of employment in our sample and the annual average CES estimates.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Based on our survey, we estimate that 79.6 percent of all workers are employed full-time and 20.4 percent part-time employees (see Figure 1). Employers reported full-time or part-time employment according to the practices in their companies. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses this method in their National Compensation Survey.

Managerial and professional employees held 24.7 percent of all

jobs, clerical and technical employees 25.7 percent and production, service and maintenance employees 49.6 percent (see Figure 2, page 3).

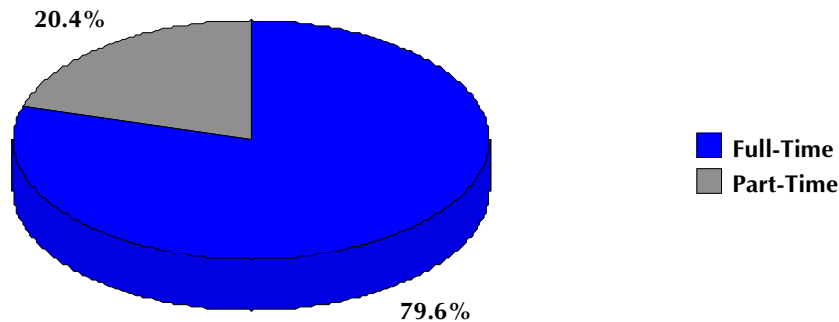
The top three benefits for full-time employees were health insurance, paid vacation and dependent health insurance (see Table 1, page 3). These benefits covered 94.7, 92.9 and 91.2 percent of full-time employees, respectively.

Part-time employees most often received employee discounts, uniforms and paid jury duty leave (see Table 1). These benefits covered 44.3, 42.7 and 36.9 percent of part-time employees, respectively.

Analyzing benefits paid to employees by industry reveals that employees in Government, Mining, and Finance, Insurance, & Real

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Figure 1: Percentage of Wyoming Employees by Full-Time and Part-Time Status, 2000**



**Wyoming Labor Force Trends** is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Beth Nelson, Director.

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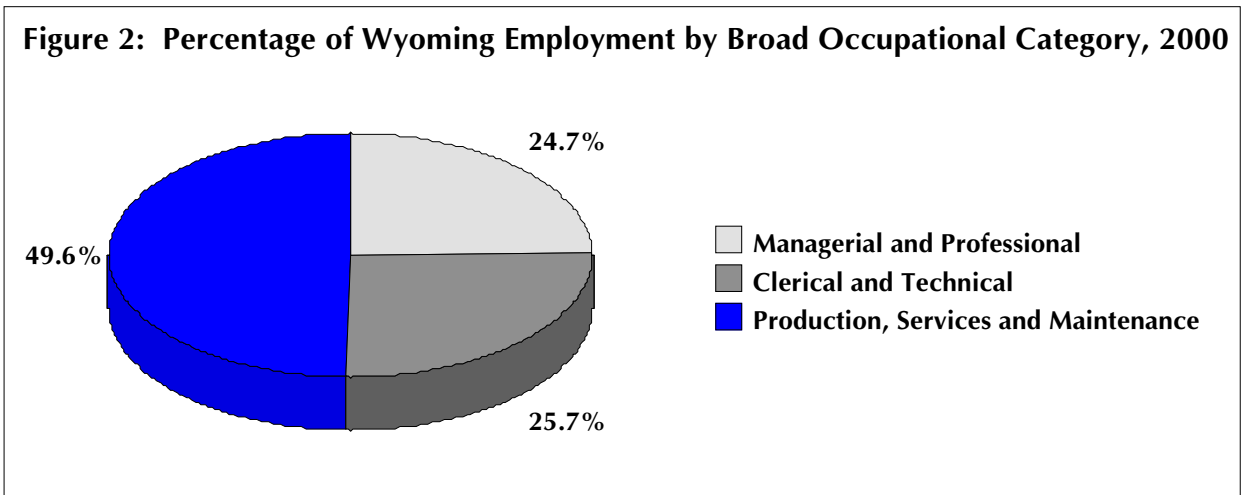
Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: Julie Barnish, David Bullard, Carola Cowan, Deana Hauf, Brad Payne, and Rich Peters.

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Estate (FIRE) are most likely to receive benefits. Employees who are the least likely to receive benefits work in Agriculture, Construction and Retail Trade (see Table 2, page 4). For example, 97.1 percent of full-time employees in Government receive paid holidays compared to only 72.1 percent of full-time employees in Retail Trade.

There appears to be a relationship between employee benefits and firm size.<sup>4</sup> For example, 99.4 percent of full-time employees in companies with 100 or more employees receive health insurance compared to only 74.5 percent of full-time employees in companies with one to four employees (see Table 3, page 5). It may seem odd that the percentage of employees in firms with one to four employees receiving benefits is, in many cases, higher than the percentage of employees in firms with five to nine employees. Keep in mind that firm size is determined by the number of employees a company has in Wyoming and not by the number of employees a company has nationwide. For example, well known national companies with 100 or more employees nationwide may have only one or two representatives in Wyoming. Therefore, readers should exercise caution when comparing benefits across firm size.

Regional analysis (see Map on page 6 for regions) shows that employees working for

*(Text continued on page 6)*

**Table 1: Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Employees Receiving Selected Benefits in Wyoming, 2000**

Benefit Type	Full-Time	Part-Time
Child Care	1.9%	3.0%
Christmas Bonus	31.8	23.9
Dental Plan	85.2	19.5
Dependent Health Insurance	91.2	28.0
Disability Insurance	55.1	12.0
Educational Assistance	50.7	17.9
Employee Discounts	31.2	44.3
Health Insurance	94.7	28.7
Life Insurance	88.1	18.7
Long-Term Disability	45.9	8.4
Maternity Leave	12.0	3.4
Paid Funeral or Bereavement Leave	69.9	25.0
Paid Holidays	85.7	25.7
Paid Jury Duty Leave	77.3	36.9
Paid Personal Leave	29.2	8.7
Paid Sick Leave	69.8	17.4
Paid Vacation	92.9	32.4
Paternity Leave	7.4	3.2
Profit Sharing	23.6	15.8
Retirement Plan	84.0	34.8
Tool Allowance	18.9	7.3
Uniform	38.9	42.7
Vision Plan	36.2	9.0
Wellness Program	37.1	13.5

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

Benefit	Industry									
	Agriculture	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	TCPU*	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	FIRE**	Services	Govt.
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>										
Child Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	6.4%	2.7%
Christmas Bonus	68.4	17.0	62.5	52.1	26.2	83.4	50.8	60.8	50.0	10.1
Dental Plan	32.5	92.1	73.4	67.2	87.0	66.4	78.0	90.1	87.8	93.1
Dependent Health Insurance	77.1	89.0	87.4	93.4	86.9	74.5	85.8	90.8	87.8	93.1
Disability Insurance	37.8	78.0	39.0	69.0	66.7	19.6	44.7	60.6	58.3	55.4
Educational Assistance	40.9	79.4	16.1	71.5	26.0	65.3	42.8	75.1	57.4	51.5
Employee Discounts	48.1	8.9	16.5	70.8	11.1	46.3	61.9	53.4	68.8	17.8
Health Insurance	81.6	96.0	88.0	95.2	93.2	93.8	88.8	96.4	90.5	91.7
Life Insurance	75.8	85.6	70.8	89.8	84.1	85.7	76.3	89.4	82.7	97.5
Long-Term Disability	27.5	73.4	23.9	58.6	53.8	15.3	43.0	59.6	52.4	43.0
Maternity Leave	2.3	25.3	0.6	8.5	1.0	7.2	4.2	21.7	12.0	16.1
Paid Funeral or Bereav. Leave	46.4	75.2	16.9	62.5	33.5	49.9	51.1	80.5	54.4	96.1
Paid Holidays	85.4	77.2	47.5	92.3	91.5	77.4	72.1	99.0	86.5	97.1
Paid Jury Duty Leave	79.1	80.2	25.1	68.9	47.7	79.1	61.0	97.2	71.5	96.9
Paid Personal Leave	11.7	36.6	5.6	24.5	7.0	7.5	2.1	30.5	26.0	48.6
Paid Sick Leave	66.0	70.0	29.6	43.3	31.5	55.7	39.1	90.7	74.9	96.3
Paid Vacation	91.2	92.9	77.8	93.6	92.6	99.6	91.2	96.0	92.3	95.8
Paternity Leave	0.0	1.9	0.0	5.9	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.9	11.6	14.8
Profit Sharing	32.0	60.3	28.2	39.3	43.5	32.9	48.1	34.9	18.3	0.4
Retirement Plan	64.5	92.5	73.2	88.1	86.4	72.9	76.3	80.5	80.9	88.3
Tool Allowance	7.3	51.0	12.0	13.7	31.9	5.2	15.6	1.0	14.2	16.9
Uniform	53.1	38.6	11.2	44.8	50.6	59.5	60.5	6.3	38.1	35.7
Vision Plan	0.8	47.6	36.7	33.7	52.5	27.1	23.1	23.2	45.4	37.6
Wellness Program	0.8	49.6	23.7	37.7	33.9	31.0	9.4	26.1	27.8	50.7
<b>Part-Time Employees</b>										
Child Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.9%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	6.9%
Christmas Bonus	39.2	64.3	15.2	58.0	42.9	68.9	22.3	64.4	39.5	13.2
Dental Plan	0.0	0.0	1.8	19.7	9.6	30.3	20.7	20.9	20.1	21.3
Dependent Health Insurance	0.0	2.4	1.4	41.2	8.5	12.4	37.7	19.7	21.4	26.4
Disability Insurance	10.7	10.5	13.7	22.0	19.8	0.8	8.0	16.1	12.4	15.0
Educational Assistance	16.8	16.7	6.0	13.2	14.9	5.7	5.0	14.1	22.4	33.1
Employee Discounts	52.3	28.6	12.0	55.8	11.2	48.4	64.0	43.9	71.6	21.1
Health Insurance	6.7	2.4	1.4	42.7	9.0	25.4	37.8	19.7	21.3	27.2
Life Insurance	8.7	2.7	1.8	23.9	13.9	2.5	10.9	20.4	23.3	28.5
Long-Term Disability	0.0	5.7	6.4	3.8	17.9	0.8	5.4	8.7	11.9	11.0
Maternity Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.3	5.4	4.0	7.7
Paid Funeral or Bereav. Leave	2.7	36.6	2.5	13.4	9.4	6.8	18.9	30.2	18.1	39.9
Paid Holidays	1.3	2.4	3.2	8.8	31.2	14.4	19.4	28.7	23.3	38.1
Paid Jury Duty Leave	5.3	36.6	2.5	29.4	25.5	41.5	26.5	39.3	50.6	51.5
Paid Personal Leave	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	6.5	21.7
Paid Sick Leave	1.2	0.0	0.4	2.9	0.0	12.6	5.9	19.1	13.2	35.6
Paid Vacation	4.2	7.1	4.2	8.1	3.0	17.9	46.8	23.6	32.2	26.4
Paternity Leave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	3.0	7.7
Profit Sharing	6.0	2.4	47.2	40.1	18.3	15.6	25.3	25.6	19.9	0.0
Retirement Plan	38.9	7.9	46.8	57.7	19.8	40.3	32.3	38.0	34.9	36.0
Tool Allowance	1.3	9.5	48.8	0.0	0.5	0.8	2.5	5.8	0.1	11.7
Uniform	45.6	9.5	7.4	36.7	33.2	28.9	64.7	0.6	51.1	24.6
Vision Plan	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.5	8.9	6.7	6.3	1.7	13.0	12.7
Wellness Program	0.0	9.8	0.4	17.6	0.5	2.5	6.7	5.7	9.0	25.6

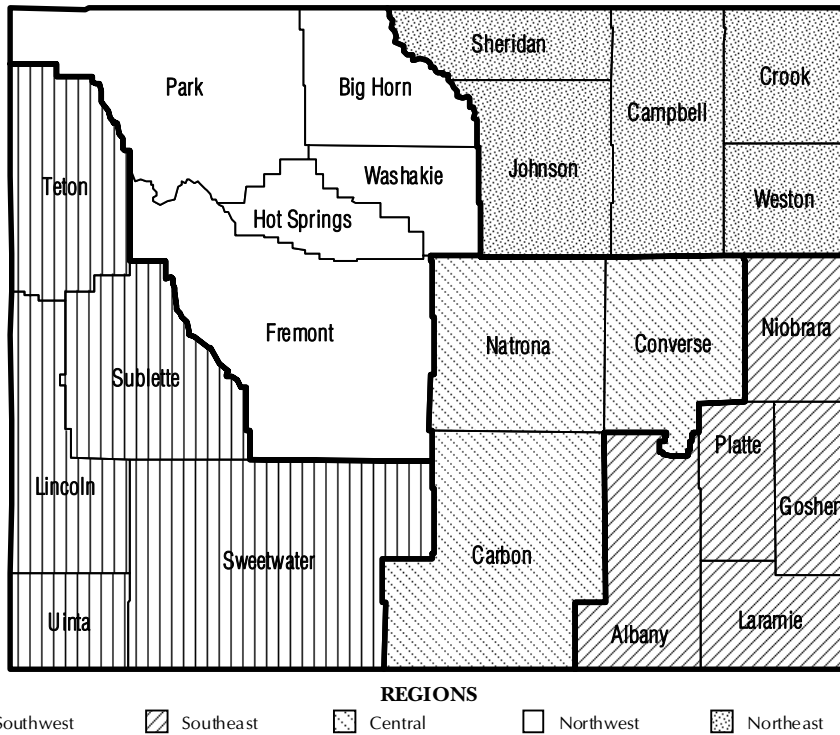
\* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

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

**Table 3: Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Employees Receiving Selected Benefits in Wyoming by Firm Size, 2000**

Benefit	Number of Employees					
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100+
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>						
Child Care	0.2%	1.1%	2.2%	3.1%	1.0%	2.0%
Christmas Bonus	47.0	69.5	44.1	60.4	42.0	22.5
Dental Plan	63.8	38.8	61.5	57.0	85.4	94.0
Dependent Health Insurance	52.4	47.4	76.1	80.5	91.1	98.0
Disability Insurance	16.8	17.2	37.6	37.8	43.8	65.1
Educational Assistance	34.6	16.7	29.7	49.6	39.8	56.9
Employee Discounts	17.7	36.9	32.5	46.1	30.1	29.9
Health Insurance	74.5	65.2	81.1	81.3	97.7	99.4
Life Insurance	63.8	40.3	51.4	70.0	94.4	95.4
Long-Term Disability	12.4	12.9	35.0	23.4	31.1	56.0
Maternity Leave	1.8	7.1	6.0	4.0	3.8	16.0
Paid Funeral or Bereavement Leave	65.2	40.8	46.0	45.5	54.1	79.7
Paid Holidays	61.6	67.9	71.7	70.0	86.6	90.9
Paid Jury Duty Leave	68.3	43.8	45.2	60.0	68.2	85.8
Paid Personal Leave	8.1	16.1	17.3	18.3	17.1	36.1
Paid Sick Leave	63.9	50.5	48.7	48.1	51.1	79.4
Paid Vacation	83.2	82.7	84.8	84.9	95.0	95.2
Paternity Leave	0.9	0.4	0.2	1.4	1.2	10.8
Profit Sharing	2.8	10.8	13.2	30.8	33.4	23.0
Retirement Plan	60.3	34.9	60.0	70.3	79.9	92.0
Tool Allowance	6.4	6.9	7.6	5.6	9.2	24.8
Uniform	18.0	22.7	43.7	27.4	48.7	38.7
Vision Plan	12.9	11.3	33.1	23.8	27.0	42.5
Wellness Program	34.2	3.5	4.1	17.1	34.6	44.2
<b>Part-Time Employees</b>						
Child Care	0.5%	0.3%	1.7%	0.0%	3.5%	4.0%
Christmas Bonus	39.4	37.6	32.0	51.0	17.2	17.5
Dental Plan	7.2	3.9	7.8	15.1	7.1	25.8
Dependent Health Insurance	3.7	6.5	4.9	28.9	8.9	36.7
Disability Insurance	7.7	7.7	5.5	13.6	15.2	12.5
Educational Assistance	11.5	11.6	22.4	16.4	8.7	20.5
Employee Discounts	41.0	23.5	35.0	55.0	41.1	46.0
Health Insurance	8.0	8.2	5.0	22.8	8.9	38.1
Life Insurance	2.5	11.5	1.2	16.3	19.7	22.5
Long-Term Disability	2.6	1.3	0.2	3.3	11.7	10.4
Maternity Leave	0.5	2.5	4.1	0.0	0.0	4.8
Paid Funeral or Bereavement Leave	14.0	23.2	7.7	7.6	16.3	32.1
Paid Holidays	18.3	13.0	7.6	9.6	19.9	32.7
Paid Jury Duty Leave	22.7	26.1	14.4	16.0	28.9	46.0
Paid Personal Leave	1.2	0.8	1.7	2.0	3.4	12.5
Paid Sick Leave	17.0	10.2	3.3	6.5	14.0	21.5
Paid Vacation	13.8	17.5	12.3	7.8	15.7	43.7
Paternity Leave	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	4.7
Profit Sharing	4.3	2.0	2.6	16.7	6.3	20.7
Retirement Plan	7.1	13.4	12.4	23.2	21.8	45.1
Tool Allowance	1.5	0.5	2.8	0.7	0.5	11.0
Uniform	8.8	12.9	38.5	66.2	38.1	45.4
Vision Plan	1.8	0.7	2.8	7.5	5.4	12.1
Wellness Program	2.0	1.8	0.5	6.1	4.6	19.5

**Map: Wyoming Counties Grouped by Region**



companies located statewide<sup>5</sup> are most likely to receive benefits (see Table 4, page 7). This reflects the fact that 82.2 percent of the companies in that region have 100 or more employees. Employees in the Central region less frequently received benefits due primarily to a large percentage of companies with one to four employees. Keep in mind, however, that employees may live in the Central region and work for a company that is classified as Statewide.

How much did employers spend on benefits as a percentage of total compensation in 1999? To make reporting easier on the employer, we collected data on the costs of providing benefits for the entire year 1999. Our survey estimates show that 18.9 percent of total compensation went to paying benefits in the year 1999 (see Figure 3, page 8). Comparatively, the cost

of benefits estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the U.S. was 27 percent of total compensation.<sup>6</sup> South Dakota, a neighboring state also conducting an employer benefits survey, reported the cost of benefits at 22.1 percent.<sup>7</sup> In our survey, employers broke out compensation by wages and salaries, costs for retirement plans, legally required benefits (e.g., Social Security and Worker’s Compensation) and all other benefits. Figure 3 illustrates the breakout by percentage of total compensation for these different benefit groups.

**Conclusion**

Using the data collected during the four quarters of 2000, we determined that employees in larger companies are more likely to receive benefits. In regions with a larger percentage of companies with 100 or more employees, employees are

more likely to receive benefits. The industry type is a major factor in determining the likelihood that the employee will receive benefits. Another major factor is the full-time or part-time status of the employee. In Wyoming, total compensation was comprised of 81.2 percent wages and salaries and 18.8 percent benefits.

We will also publish a more comprehensive analysis of the benefits survey in the near future. If you would like a copy of the annual benefits publication when it becomes available or a copy of the survey instrument, please call (307) 473-3804 or visit our web site at <http://lmi.state.wy.us>.

<sup>1</sup>Carola Cowan, “Employee Benefits Survey: Compensation Revisited,” *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, August 2000, pp. 1-8.

<sup>2</sup>Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Wyoming Wage Survey*, March 2001.

<sup>3</sup>Craig Radden Henderson, “Retention of Wyoming’s Labor Force: Holding on to Households,” *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, February 2001, pp. 1-13.

<sup>4</sup>The relationship between employee benefits and firm size can also be seen in the June 29, 2000 Bureau of Labor Statistics’ *News Release*. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employer Costs for Employee Compensation-March 2000,” *News Release*, June 29, 2000, Table 8, p. 13.

<sup>5</sup>Statewide refers to companies that have locations in more than one county.

<sup>6</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employer Costs for Employee Compensation-March 2000,” *News Release*, June 29, 2000.

<sup>7</sup>South Dakota Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Center, *South Dakota Benefits Publication*, 2000.

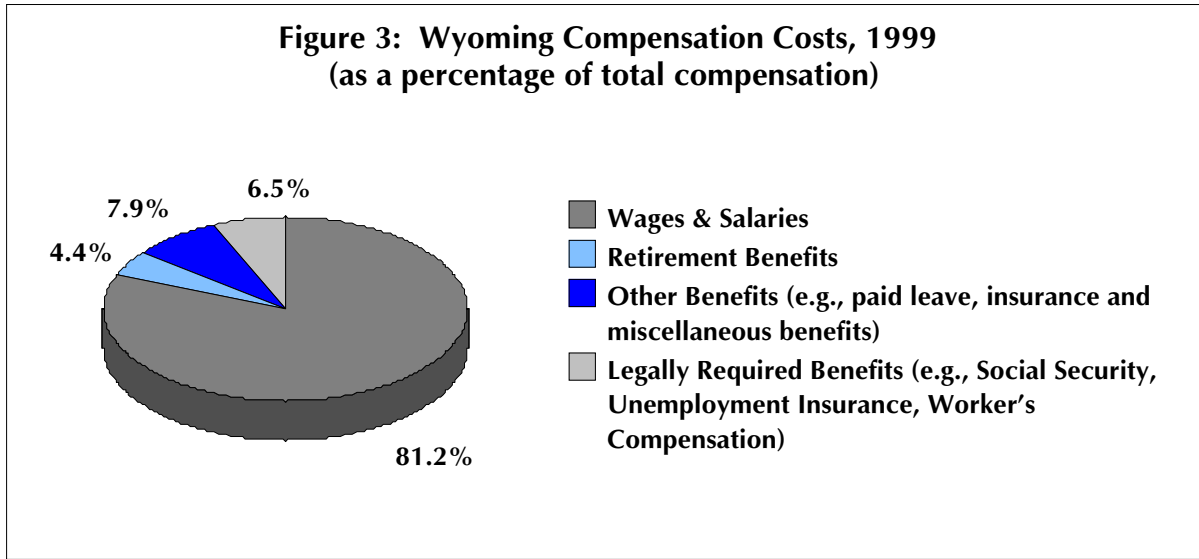


**Table 4: Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Employees Receiving Benefits in Wyoming by Region, 2000**

Benefit	Region					Statewide*
	Southwest	Southeast	Central	Northwest	Northeast	
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>						
Child Care	0.4%	1.2%	7.6%	0.0%	2.1%	1.5%
Christmas Bonus	37.3	39.7	44.7	29.6	23.1	23.9
Dental Plan	87.5	78.5	84.6	75.8	80.3	92.9
Dependent Health Insurance	91.8	91.5	80.0	90.6	85.4	97.2
Disability Insurance	70.7	56.1	47.0	48.4	48.6	53.6
Educational Assistance	56.0	48.3	59.9	38.6	66.2	44.7
Employee Discounts	27.5	30.3	33.4	32.1	21.3	36.1
Health Insurance	93.3	95.5	92.4	91.9	90.9	98.4
Life Insurance	85.6	91.3	82.3	84.7	84.6	92.2
Long-Term Disability	66.4	49.3	37.0	36.5	47.0	39.2
Maternity Leave	13.6	14.3	6.4	6.4	5.3	16.2
Paid Funeral or Bereavement Leave	76.2	69.2	67.5	70.5	61.2	70.6
Paid Holidays	82.3	94.6	78.9	82.1	81.0	88.0
Paid Jury Duty Leave	79.5	78.3	72.3	72.9	68.5	82.3
Paid Personal Leave	29.7	16.5	30.9	38.9	38.5	28.2
Paid Sick Leave	77.8	71.8	58.3	73.1	65.9	68.7
Paid Vacation	86.8	94.1	88.3	92.8	93.2	97.2
Paternity Leave	6.0	11.4	0.3	5.5	0.0	11.9
Profit Sharing	21.1	21.5	8.6	19.2	35.7	28.8
Retirement Plan	86.3	84.8	74.4	73.9	73.1	93.6
Tool Allowance	24.3	17.8	10.6	11.3	25.3	20.1
Uniform	41.9	36.9	27.6	23.9	49.5	44.3
Vision Plan	67.9	25.5	41.8	51.8	29.6	20.2
Wellness Program	22.9	24.4	28.7	35.5	45.3	51.8
<b>Part-Time Employees</b>						
Child Care	0.1%	7.0%	6.3%	0.2%	14.3%	0.7%
Christmas Bonus	37.5	24.2	31.9	26.5	18.6	17.4
Dental Plan	16.4	4.5	20.1	32.8	9.2	23.9
Dependent Health Insurance	26.8	13.5	18.6	35.1	8.9	37.7
Disability Insurance	20.1	7.4	7.4	10.1	7.9	12.4
Educational Assistance	34.9	7.7	16.5	31.7	18.8	10.3
Employee Discounts	35.2	30.7	51.4	41.9	30.5	55.0
Health Insurance	23.3	13.6	21.3	34.8	9.9	40.0
Life Insurance	21.2	8.8	15.6	30.3	14.2	19.1
Long-Term Disability	16.6	4.5	12.8	7.5	2.7	7.2
Maternity Leave	8.2	3.0	1.4	0.7	0.0	3.4
Paid Funeral or Bereavement Leave	22.1	26.8	13.6	37.7	15.9	26.0
Paid Holidays	31.6	15.3	23.6	23.3	19.0	29.4
Paid Jury Duty Leave	48.7	32.4	26.4	46.1	18.5	37.9
Paid Personal Leave	11.1	6.2	1.8	18.2	7.6	7.2
Paid Sick Leave	17.1	12.7	7.0	28.7	17.5	17.5
Paid Vacation	8.5	13.3	29.7	40.9	9.9	51.3
Paternity Leave	8.2	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	3.5
Profit Sharing	3.8	3.0	1.9	8.9	1.0	32.3
Retirement Plan	25.6	15.3	22.5	36.0	19.9	50.1
Tool Allowance	15.0	0.2	1.3	1.9	0.3	10.4
Uniform	38.6	24.1	41.3	35.2	15.4	58.3
Vision Plan	13.1	0.8	16.6	21.3	15.0	3.1
Wellness Program	7.9	7.8	15.8	17.3	11.1	16.7

\* The employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

**Figure 3: Wyoming Compensation Costs, 1999  
(as a percentage of total compensation)**



## Looking at Wyoming's Economy from a New Perspective: Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Major Groups

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

**T**raditionally, economic analysis has focused on industries. Industries are types of activities in which businesses are engaged (e.g., coal mining, oil refining or retail trade). This article focuses on occupations, which are groups of similar jobs found in different industries or organizations (e.g., bookkeepers, truck drivers or sales clerks). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently revised the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system classifies jobs into 822 detailed occupations based on “work performed and on required skills, education, training, and credentials.”<sup>1</sup> These detailed occupations are combined to form 98 minor groups and 22 major groups. Because of the difficulty of looking at hundreds of individual occupations, this article only examines employment and wages in the 22 major groups.

Figure 1 (see page 9) shows the percentage of wage and salary employment found in each of the 22 major groups in Wyoming and in the United States in fourth quarter 1999. Many of the major groups employ a similar percentage of workers in Wyoming and the U.S. For example, Protective Service Occupations account for 2.3 percent of total U.S. employment and 2.2 percent of total Wyoming employment. However, in other occupational categories there are significant differences between Wyoming and the U.S. These differences can be explained by the different industrial makeup of the Wyoming labor market and the U.S. labor market.

In comparing Wyoming to the U.S., we divided these groups into two categories: proportionally overrepresented occupations and underrepresented occupations.

### Overrepresented Occupations in Wyoming

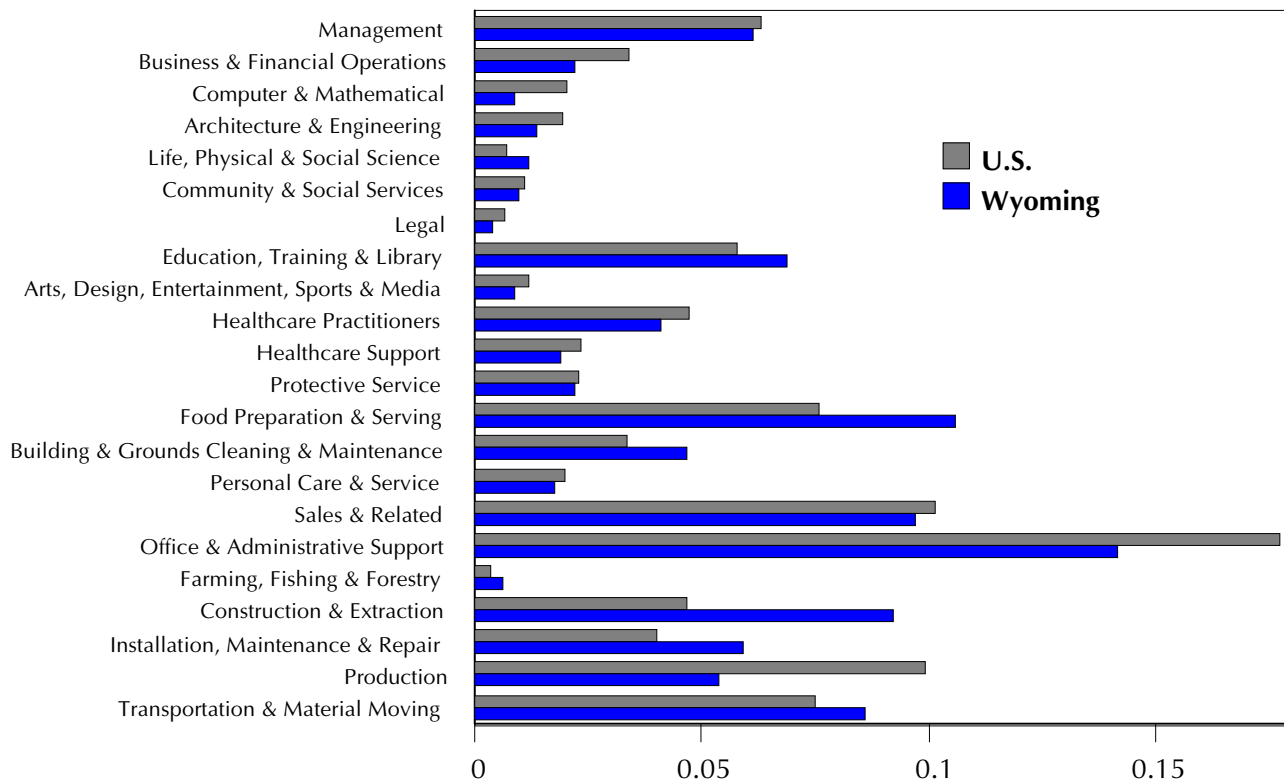
Construction & Extraction Occupations employ 9.2 percent of Wyoming workers, but only 4.7 percent of U.S. workers. This is the occupational category into which many workers in Wyoming’s Mining industry are classified. As a proportion of total employment, Wyoming’s Mining industry is the largest of any state.

Food Preparation & Serving Occupations account for 10.6 percent of Wyoming workers, 3.0 percentage points more than the U.S. This difference appears related to Wyoming’s tourism industry. Wyoming has a higher proportion of employment in eating & drinking places than the U.S. (7.3% compared to 6.2%).

(Continued on page 9)



**Figure 1: Percentage of Employment Found in Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Major Groups in Wyoming and the U.S., 1999**



Installation, Maintenance & Repair Occupations employ 4.0 percent of workers in the U.S., but 5.9 percent of Wyoming workers. This occupational group includes such occupations as mechanics, millwrights and machinery maintenance workers.

The Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations group is overrepresented in Wyoming. It accounts for 3.4 percent of U.S. employment and 4.7 percent of Wyoming employment. Its overrepresentation can be explained by the large size of Wyoming’s tourist industry, especially hotels & other lodging places. Nationally, hotels & other lodging places represents only 1.4 percent of total employment, but in Wyoming it represents 4.0 percent.

Wyoming’s overrepresentation in Transportation & Material Moving Occupations is also related to our large Mining industry as well as its associated transportation industry (railroad and trucking).

Education, Training & Library Occupations employ 6.9 percent of Wyoming workers, but only 5.8 percent of all U.S. workers. Wyoming’s overrepresentation in this occupational group may be related to the rural nature of our state and our large number of small schools. Looking at student to teacher ratios seems to confirm this notion. In the 1999-2000 school year, the national student/teacher ratio for all public schools was 16.2, while Wyoming’s ratio was 13.9.<sup>2</sup> The difference in ratios may not seem significant, but if Wyoming’s ratio were at the national

average, we would have 900 fewer teachers.

Table 1 (see page 10) is a ranking of the 50 states and the District of Columbia by student/teacher ratio. Interestingly, Wyoming’s geographic neighbors are spread throughout the ranking. Utah is ranked first, meaning that it has the largest ratio, or the largest number of students per teacher. Colorado and Idaho are also above the national average. Wyoming’s more rural neighbors, Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota are all below the national average, indicating smaller class sizes. In fact, at 14.1 and 14.0, respectively, South Dakota and Nebraska are very similar to Wyoming.

*(Continued on page 10)*

**Table 1: States Ranked by Student to Teacher Ratios, 1999-2000 School Year**

State	Ratio
<b>Utah</b>	<b>22.3</b>
California	20.7
Washington	20.0
Arizona	19.2
Nevada	18.7
Michigan	18.4
Florida	18.1
Oregon	18.1
Hawaii	17.6
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Alaska	17.1
Indiana	16.9
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>16.8</b>
Maryland	16.7
New Mexico	16.4
Pennsylvania	16.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>16.2</b>
Mississippi	16.2
Kentucky	16.0
Ohio	16.0
Illinois	16.0
Arkansas	15.9
Minnesota	15.9
North Carolina	15.8
Georgia	15.8
Delaware	15.5
<b>Montana</b>	<b>15.4</b>
New Hampshire	15.4
Wisconsin	15.2
Oklahoma	15.2
Alabama	15.1
Texas	15.1
Tennessee	15.0
Louisiana	15.0
Iowa	14.8
South Carolina	14.7
Kansas	14.6
West Virginia	14.3
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Missouri	14.1
North Dakota	14.1
New York	14.0
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Rhode Island	13.9
Virginia	13.9
Connecticut	13.9
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>13.9</b>
District of Columbia	13.6
Massachusetts	13.6
New Jersey	13.5
Maine	12.8
Vermont	12.4

Source: Lena McDowell, "Early Estimates of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics: School Year 1999-2000," *Education Statistics Quarterly*, Volume 2, Issue 2, Summer 2000.

**Underrepresented Occupations in Wyoming**

Production Occupations employ 9.9 percent of U.S. workers, but in Wyoming, they only account for 5.4 percent of all jobs. Since production occupations are found primarily in the Manufacturing industry, the relatively small size of Manufacturing employment in Wyoming may explain this difference. In 1999, Manufacturing employed 4.8 percent of Wyoming workers and 14.4 percent of U.S. workers. However, Manufacturing in Wyoming seems to be weighted heavily toward those industries which pay well, such as oil refining and chemicals. This helps explain why the relatively few employees in Production Occupations in Wyoming earn more than their U.S. counterparts (see Figure 2, page 11).

Office & Administrative Support Occupations are also underrepresented in Wyoming. Nationally, 17.7 percent of jobs are in this occupational category, but only 14.1 percent of Wyoming jobs are found in this category. This difference can be partially explained by Wyoming's small Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) industry. Financial institutions and insurance companies tend to employ large numbers of tellers, secretaries, clerks and other occupations which fall into this category.

Computer & Mathematical Occupations employ less than one percent of Wyoming workers, but account for 2.1 percent of U.S. jobs.

**Mean Annual Wages in SOC Major Groups**

Figure 2 shows that the mean annual wage is higher in the U.S. than in Wyoming for 19 of the 22 major

occupational groups. The three groups which pay more in Wyoming are Farming, Fishing & Forestry; Production; and Transportation & Material Moving.

The differences in wages could be related to several factors. A different mix of industries in Wyoming could lead to a different mix of occupations within each group and cause lower or higher average wages at the major group level. Cost of living may also play a role, but with no official government statistics on interstate cost of living differences, reliable numbers are hard to obtain.

**Conclusion**

Differences in the occupational structure of Wyoming's economy can largely be explained by differences in industries. Mining and tourism are relatively large industries in Wyoming, while Manufacturing and FIRE are relatively small. The relative size of Wyoming's industries can be explained by natural resource endowments as well as historical patterns of development.

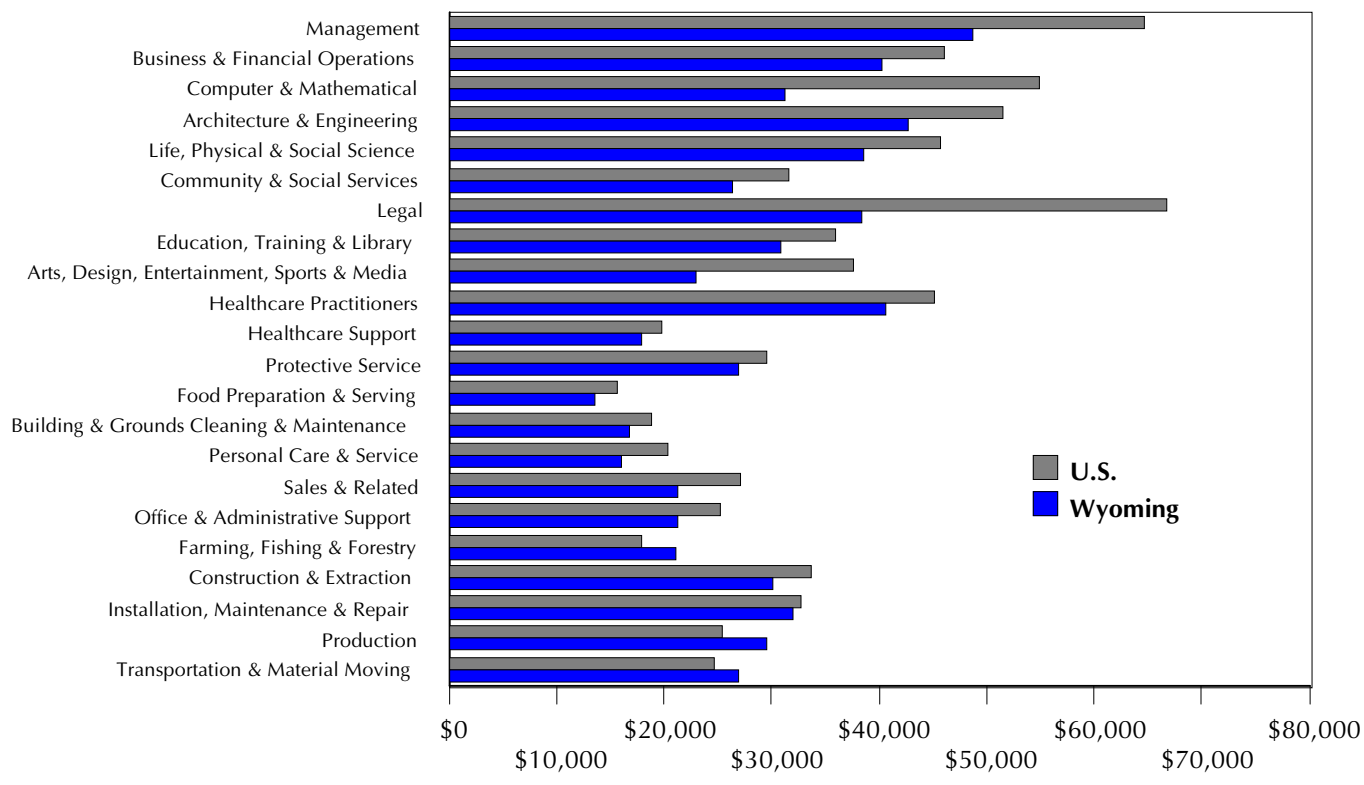
<sup>1</sup>U.S. Office of Management and Budget, *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*, 2000, p. xii.

<sup>2</sup>Lena McDowell, "Early Estimates of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics: School Year 1999-2000," *Education Statistics Quarterly*, Volume 2, Issue 2, Summer 2000.

Also available on the Internet: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/quarterly/summer/2feat/q2-4.html> (April 3, 2001).



**Figure 2: Mean Annual Wage in Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Major Groups in Wyoming and the U.S., 1999**



**Note:** The employment estimates in this article were produced by the federal-state cooperative Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program and only include wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments during fourth quarter 1999. Alternative sources of occupational employment data include the decennial census. Census data will have more complete coverage and include self-employed and agricultural workers. However, census data on employment by occupation will not be available until June 2002.

## The 30 Highest and Lowest Hourly Wage Occupations in Wyoming

by: Deana Hauf, Economist

**T**his article identifies the 30 highest and lowest paying occupations in Wyoming. The highest paying occupations have average hourly wage rates between \$25.88 and \$67.28 (see Table 1, page 12). All of the occupations on the lowest paying list have average wages in excess of the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.

information in this article is based on annual results generated by the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Survey program. During the fourth quarter of 1999, the data were collected using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.<sup>1</sup> All workers are classified in one of over 820 occupations (e.g., Surgeons). To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 98 minor

groups (e.g., Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners) and 22 major groups (e.g., Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations) of occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

Most wages reported in this article represent the hourly mean

**Table 1: 30 Occupations with the Highest Hourly Wages in Wyoming, 1999\***

Standard Occupational Classification Code	Title	Employment	Mean Wage
29-1067	Surgeons	150	\$67.28
13-2052	Personal financial advisors	140	59.55
29-1063	Internists, general	140	55.51
29-1065	Pediatricians, general	30	52.82
29-1062	Family and general practitioners	140	50.65
29-1020	Dentists	60	42.34
41-3031	Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	160	38.09
11-9041	Managers, engineering	270	37.21
11-1011	Chief executives	990	34.47
17-2112	Engineers, industrial	30	33.75
29-1199	Health diagnosing and treating practitioners, all other	120	33.42
11-9033	Education administrators, postsecondary	220	33.17
17-2171	Engineers, petroleum	290	30.48
13-1111	Management analysts	170	30.22
19-3099	Scientists, social and related workers, all other	60	29.90
17-2071	Engineers, electrical	100	29.73
25-1042	Teachers, biological science, postsecondary	70	60,210**
19-2042	Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers	180	28.90
17-2151	Engineers, mining and geological, including mining safety engineers and inspectors	120	28.37
29-1051	Pharmacists	560	28.17
47-5012	Rotary drill operators, oil and gas	ND***	28.11
29-1123	Therapists, physical	300	27.84
25-1053	Teachers, environmental science, postsecondary	ND	56,250**
29-1071	Physician assistants	ND	26.96
25-1052	Teachers, chemistry, postsecondary	30	55,240**
17-2111	Engineers, health and safety, except mining safety	30	26.15
25-1071	Teachers, health specialties, postsecondary	80	54,280**
11-9121	Natural sciences managers	150	25.88
25-1011	Teachers, business, postsecondary	70	53,830**
11-9032	Education administrators, elementary and secondary school	420	52,820**
<b>Total****</b>		<b>5,080</b>	

\* Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, 1999 Wage Survey, March 2001.  
 \*\* Annual wages, not hourly wages, are reported for these occupations.  
 \*\*\* Employment estimates for occupations having fewer than 30 employees are not disclosable, due to confidentiality.  
 \*\*\*\* Total employment does not include employment from nondisclosable occupations.

wage. The mean wage, a measure of central tendency also called the arithmetic average, is the estimated total wages for an occupation divided by its weighted survey employment.<sup>2</sup> The hourly wage estimates are calculated using a year-round, full-time figure of 2,080 hours per year (52 weeks times 40 hours).

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) technical notes list which occupations are included in each occupational category.<sup>3</sup>

**Highest Paying Occupations**

Table 1 lists the 30 highest paying occupations in Wyoming. These

occupations generally require at least a Bachelor's degree. In many cases, additional training, certification, or professional licensing is also required. In addition to formal training, some high paying professions also require managerial skills.

The highest mean wage is \$67.28 per hour for the occupation of surgeons. As you can see from Table 1, all of the highest paying occupations have employment under 1,000. Total employment for the 30 highest paying occupations is 5,080 or 2.2 percent of total statewide employment (226,280). The 30 occupations are distributed among the major groups as follows:

- 9 in Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations (SOC Code 29)
- 5 in Architecture and Engineering Occupations (SOC Code 17)
- 5 in Management Occupations (SOC Code 11)
- 5 in Education, Training, and Library Occupations (SOC Code 25)
- 2 in Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (SOC Code 19)
- 2 in Business and Financial Operations Occupations (SOC Code 13)
- 1 in Sales and Related Occupations (SOC Code 41)
- 1 in Construction and Extraction Occupations (SOC Code 47)

**Lowest Paying Occupations**

The wage rates for the lowest paying occupations range from \$5.85 per hour for dishwashers to \$7.25 per hour for cleaners of vehicles and equipment (see Table

(Continued on page 13)

**Table 2: 30 Occupations with the Lowest Hourly Wages in Wyoming, 1999\***

Standard Occupational Classification		Employment	Mean Wage
Code	Title		
35-9021	Dishwashers	1,700	\$5.85
39-3031	Ushers, lobby attendants, and ticket takers	ND**	5.94
35-3031	Waiters and waitresses	ND	5.95
27-4011	Audio and video equipment technicians	ND	5.95
35-3021	Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	ND	5.98
51-3099	Food processing workers, all other	ND	5.98
35-9011	Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	550	6.25
35-2011	Cooks, fast food	1,000	6.34
39-9011	Child care workers	ND	6.35
51-6011	Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	480	6.38
35-3022	Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	570	6.55
35-9031	Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	270	6.56
51-6021	Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	ND	6.61
35-3041	Food servers, nonrestaurant	ND	6.63
43-5021	Couriers and messengers	40	6.66
53-6031	Service station attendants	150	6.70
35-3011	Bartenders	1,560	6.74
53-6021	Parking lot attendants	ND	6.75
51-9132	Photographic processing machine operators	110	6.88
53-7064	Packers and packagers, hand	1,660	6.88
39-9099	Personal care and service workers, all other	150	6.88
39-6011	Baggage porters and bellhops	90	6.94
41-2021	Counter and rental clerks	1,030	7.05
37-2012	Maids and housekeeping cleaners	3,960	7.09
43-4071	File clerks	230	7.11
39-3093	Locker room, coatroom, and dressing room attendants	30	7.12
35-2021	Food preparation workers	740	7.12
43-4081	Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	660	7.16
41-2011	Cashiers	4,330	7.23
53-7061	Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	360	7.25
<b>Total***</b>		<b>19,670</b>	

\* Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **1999 Wage Survey**, March 2001.  
 \*\* Employment estimates for occupations having fewer than 30 employees are not disclosable, due to confidentiality.  
 \*\*\* Total employment does not include employment from nondisclosable occupations.

2). Occupations paying the least generally do not require formal post-secondary education. Although, they may require on-the-job training. These occupations are usually associated with the Services and Retail Trade industries and often include many part-time positions. Total employment reported for the

lowest paying occupations is 19,670 or 8.7 percent of total statewide employment (226,280). Of the 30 lowest paying occupations, 10 are in food services. Cashiers, with a high employment level of 4,330, showed an hourly wage of \$7.23.

(Continued on page 14)

**State Unemployment Rates  
March 2001  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.7
Alaska	6.7
Washington	6.0
District of Columbia	5.9
West Virginia	5.7
Idaho	5.6
Mississippi	5.6
Illinois	5.5
Louisiana	5.4
Montana	5.4
New Mexico	5.4
Oregon	5.4
Michigan	5.2
Pennsylvania	4.9
Alabama	4.8
California	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.6</b>
North Carolina	4.5
Arkansas	4.4
Nevada	4.4
New York	4.4
Kentucky	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Tennessee	4.1
Hawaii	4.0
New Jersey	4.0
Texas	4.0
Missouri	3.9
Minnesota	3.8
Ohio	3.8
Arizona	3.7
Georgia	3.7
Kansas	3.7
South Carolina	3.7
Florida	3.6
Delaware	3.5
Indiana	3.5
Maryland	3.5
Massachusetts	3.5
Utah	3.5
Iowa	3.4
Maine	3.3
Vermont	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
Oklahoma	3.1
New Hampshire	3.0
North Dakota	2.9
Colorado	2.8
South Dakota	2.7
Virginia	2.4
Connecticut	2.1

**State Unemployment Rates  
March 2001  
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.9
District of Columbia	6.0
Alaska	5.8
Washington	5.7
Louisiana	5.6
Alabama	5.4
Mississippi	5.4
New Mexico	5.4
Illinois	5.3
West Virginia	5.1
California	4.7
Michigan	4.7
Oregon	4.7
Idaho	4.6
Nevada	4.6
Montana	4.5
North Carolina	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.5
South Carolina	4.4
Arizona	4.3
Hawaii	4.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Kentucky	4.2
Arkansas	4.1
Tennessee	4.1
Texas	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
New York	4.0
Rhode Island	4.0
Florida	3.8
New Jersey	3.8
Georgia	3.7
Kansas	3.7
Missouri	3.7
Maryland	3.6
Ohio	3.5
Utah	3.5
Minnesota	3.4
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Delaware	3.3
Indiana	3.2
Massachusetts	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
Oklahoma	3.0
Colorado	2.9
Vermont	2.9
Iowa	2.8
New Hampshire	2.6
Virginia	2.5
Maine	2.4
North Dakota	2.4
South Dakota	2.2
Connecticut	1.9

**Wyoming Growth Slows in March, but  
Continues to Outpace U.S.**

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

**"Over the year, Wyoming's employment growth rate was more than double the U.S. growth rate."**

**W** Wyoming job growth slowed from 2.5 percent in February to 1.9 percent in March, but continued to outpace the nation (0.9% in March). Approximately 4,500 jobs were created when compared with March 2000, making Wyoming's employment growth rate more than double the U.S. growth rate. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.4 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent, and below its March 2000 level of 3.7 percent.

Large employment gains were seen in Mining (1,900 jobs or 11.4%), Retail Trade (1,700 jobs or 3.9%) and Services (1,000 jobs or 1.9%). Mining gains were centered in oil and gas extraction, while other industries within mining (coal mining and nonmetallic minerals) were flat or down slightly. Within Retail Trade, employment increases were seen in almost every type of store. The largest increase in Retail Trade occurred in department stores, which

gained 700 jobs or 18.9 percent. Services job gains were concentrated in health services (400 jobs or 3.7%), business services (200 jobs or 2.5%) and social services (200 jobs or 3.4%).

When compared with March 2000, significant job losses occurred in telephone communications (-200 jobs or 18.2%) and Federal Government (-800 jobs or 10.5%). The decrease in Federal Government employment was related to the temporary workers hired in 2000 to conduct the decennial census.

From February to March, the unemployment rate increased in only two counties. Washakie County increased from 3.9 percent to 5.2 percent, and Hot Springs County increased from 4.3 percent to 4.6 percent. The unemployment rates in Big Horn County (6.2%), Campbell County (3.2%) and Teton County (1.7%) were unchanged in March. The remaining 18 counties experienced unemployment declines from February to March.

*(Continued from page 13)*

The wage information presented in this article can be found in the recently released **1999 Wage Survey**. For your own copy of the **1999 Wage Survey**, contact Research & Planning at (307)473-3807 or visit our website at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/>.

see the website at: <http://stats.bls.gov/soc/soc%5Fhome.htm>.

<sup>2</sup>The employment estimates for each occupation are based on the total number of employees reported as part of the Unemployment Insurance Covered Employment and Wages program.

<sup>1</sup>For more information about the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system,

<sup>3</sup>The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) technical notes are located at: <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm>.

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

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

**"Large employment gains were seen in Mining (1,900 jobs or 11.4%), Retail Trade (1,700 jobs or 3.9%) and Services (1,000 jobs or 1.9%)."**

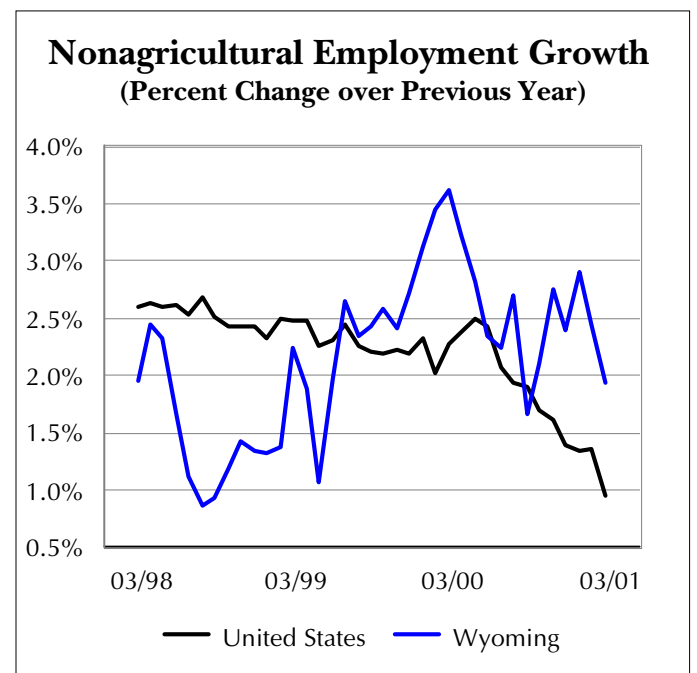
WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAR01(p)	FEB01(r)	MAR_00	MAR_01	MAR_01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	236.7	234.1	232.2	1.1	1.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	45.8	44.8	43.9	2.2	4.3
Mining	18.5	18.2	16.6	1.6	11.4
Coal Mining	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-2.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	10.7	10.5	8.8	1.9	21.6
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	8.0	7.8	6.1	2.6	31.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Construction	16.1	15.2	16.1	5.9	0.0
General Building Contractors	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Heavy Construction	4.6	4.1	4.6	12.2	0.0
Special Trade Construction	7.6	7.2	7.6	5.6	0.0
Manufacturing	11.2	11.4	11.2	-1.8	0.0
Durable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	6.0	6.2	6.0	-3.2	0.0
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.2	1.1	-8.3	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	190.9	189.3	188.3	0.8	1.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	13.9	14.1	0.0	-1.4
Transportation	9.1	9.2	9.1	-1.1	0.0
Railroad Transportation	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.5	3.6	3.5	-2.8	0.0
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.2	0.0	-9.1
Telephone Communications	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.0	-18.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Trade	53.3	52.9	51.5	0.8	3.5
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.7	7.6	0.0	1.3
Durable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	45.6	45.2	43.9	0.9	3.9
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.2	2.0	2.0	10.0	10.0
General Merchandise Stores	5.2	5.2	4.5	0.0	15.6
Department Stores	4.4	4.4	3.7	0.0	18.9
Food Stores	5.3	5.4	5.3	-1.9	0.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.2	8.0	7.9	2.5	3.8
Gas Stations	4.2	4.1	4.1	2.4	2.4
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Eating & Drinking Places	16.4	16.2	16.2	1.2	1.2
Miscellaneous Retail	5.4	5.4	5.2	0.0	3.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.1	8.1	7.9	0.0	2.5
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.1	0.0	4.9
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	53.5	53.1	52.5	0.8	1.9
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.6	7.6	7.5	0.0	1.3
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Business Services	8.1	8.0	7.9	1.2	2.5
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0
Amusements (Rec.Services & Mot.Pics.)	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0
Health Services	11.1	11.0	10.7	0.9	3.7
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Social Services	6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0	3.4
Membership Organizations	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-2.8
Engineering & Management	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6
Government	62.1	61.3	62.3	1.3	-0.3
Total Federal Government	6.8	6.8	7.6	0.0	-10.5
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Total State Government	13.8	13.7	13.9	0.7	-0.7
State Education	5.5	5.3	5.6	3.8	-1.8
Total Local Government	41.5	40.8	40.8	1.7	1.7
Local Hospitals	5.4	5.3	5.2	1.9	3.8
Local Education	23.7	23.3	23.4	1.7	1.3

## LARAMIE COUNTY

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAR01(p)	FEB01(r)	MAR_00	MAR_01	MAR_01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.1	36.9	37.3	0.5	-0.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6
Mining & Construction	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.0	-4.5
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	33.3	33.1	33.4	0.6	-0.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.9	0.0	-6.9
Trade	8.6	8.6	8.3	0.0	3.6
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.8	7.8	7.5	0.0	4.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Services	8.4	8.3	8.3	1.2	1.2
Total Government	12.0	11.9	12.2	0.8	-1.6
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.0	-13.8
State Government	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9
Local Government	6.0	5.9	5.9	1.7	1.7

## NATRONA COUNTY\*

NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAR01(p)	FEB01(r)	MAR_00	MAR_01	MAR_01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.4	31.9	31.6	1.6	2.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.4	5.2	1.9	5.8
Mining	2.1	2.1	1.9	0.0	10.5
Construction	1.8	1.7	1.8	5.9	0.0
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.9	26.5	26.4	1.5	1.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Trade	8.7	8.7	8.4	0.0	3.6
Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.4	2.3	4.2	8.7
Retail Trade	6.2	6.3	6.1	-1.6	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Services	9.5	9.3	9.3	2.2	2.2
Personal & Business Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Health Services	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9
Government	5.9	5.7	5.9	3.5	0.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.7	2.3
Local Education	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	0.0



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

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

(p) Subject to revision. (r) Revised.

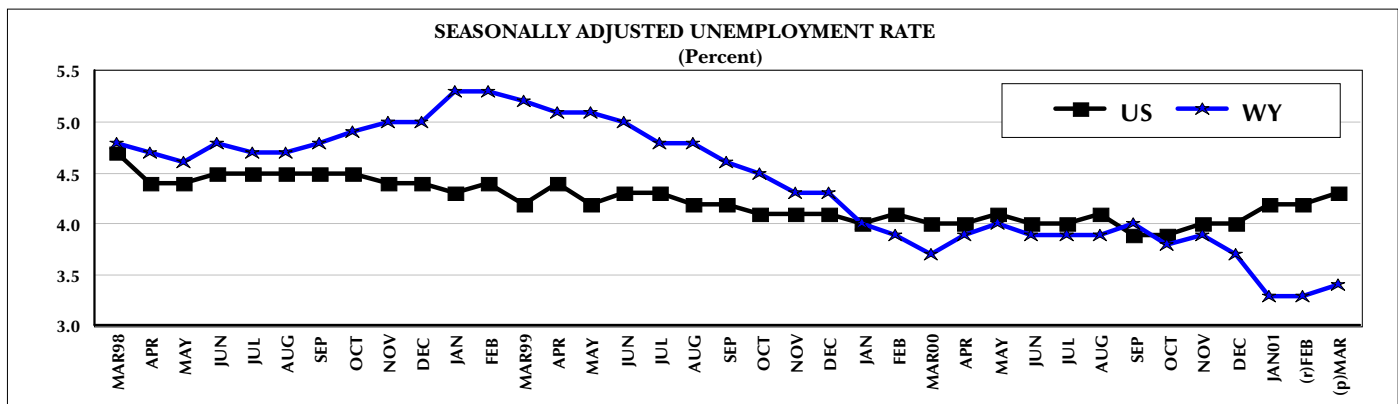
# Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistical Technician

**"When compared to February 2001, the number of Wyoming building permits increased 90.4 percent."**

	March 2001 (p)	February 2001 (r)	March 2000 (b)	Percentage Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	265,409	262,925	265,134	0.9	0.1
Unemployed	11,209	12,041	12,022	-6.9	-6.8
Employed	254,200	250,884	253,112	1.3	0.4
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.2%/3.4%	4.6%/3.3%	4.5%/3.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.6%/4.3%	4.6%/4.2%	4.6%/4.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,609,000	7,592,000	7,707,000	0.2	-1.3
As a percent of all workers	5.6%	5.6%	5.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	350,000	289,000	257,000	21.1	36.2
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,338,000	3,424,000	3,306,000	-2.5	1.0
<b>Hours &amp; Earnings for Production Workers</b>					
<b>Wyoming Mining</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$885.43	\$874.78	\$840.45	1.2	5.4
Average Weekly Hours	44.9	44.7	43.3	0.4	3.7
<b>U.S. Mining Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$780.68	\$770.24	\$758.59	1.4	2.9
Average Weekly Hours	45.1	44.6	43.9	1.1	2.7
<b>Wyoming Manufacturing Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$593.44	\$592.34	\$615.34	0.2	-3.6
Average Weekly Hours	37.3	36.7	39.3	1.6	-5.1
<b>U.S. Manufacturing Hours &amp; Earnings</b>					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$596.41	\$591.86	\$590.13	0.8	1.1
Average Weekly Hours	40.6	40.4	41.9	0.5	-3.1
<b>Wyoming Unemployment Insurance</b>					
Weeks Compensated (2)	15,564	16,154	15,707	-3.7	-0.9
Benefits Paid	\$3,256,216	\$3,394,032	\$2,988,754	-4.1	8.9
Average Weekly Benefits Payment	\$209.21	\$210.10	\$190.28	-0.4	9.9
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	209,175	207,084	208,041	1.0	0.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.9%	2.1%	1.9%	N/A	N/A
<b>Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Items	176.2	175.8	171.2	0.2	2.9
Food & Beverages	172.2	171.8	167.1	0.2	3.1
Housing	175.4	174.7	167.8	0.4	4.5
Apparel	132.2	128.4	132.5	3.0	-0.2
Transportation	153.9	154.9	153.4	-0.6	0.3
Medical Care	270.0	268.9	258.1	0.4	4.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	104.3	104.3	102.9	0.0	1.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	104.3	104.0	102.0	0.3	2.3
Other Goods & Services	277.7	277.2	268.0	0.2	3.6
<b>Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Commodities	135.9	136.5	130.8	-0.4	3.9
<b>Wyoming Building Permits</b>					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	158	83	175	90.4	-9.7
Valuation	\$25,209,000	\$15,089,000	\$45,640,000	67.1	-44.8

(p) Preliminary (r) Revised (1) Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates





# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Statistician

**"While the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one tenth of a percentage point in March 2001, Wyoming (3.4%) remained well below the U.S. rate (4.3%)."**

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Mar 2001 (p)	Feb 2001 (r)	Mar 2000 (b)	Mar 2001 (p)	Feb 2001 (r)	Mar 2000 (b)	Mar 2001 (p)	Feb 2001 (r)	Mar 2000 (b)	Mar 2001 (p)	Feb 2001 (r)	Mar 2000 (b)
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>45,579</b>	<b>45,051</b>	<b>46,191</b>	<b>42,786</b>	<b>42,165</b>	<b>43,220</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Big Horn	5,920	5,845	6,111	5,553	5,480	5,689	367	365	422	6.2	6.2	6.9
Fremont	18,246	18,077	18,348	16,888	16,589	17,059	1,358	1,488	1,289	7.4	8.2	7.0
Hot Springs	2,439	2,376	2,455	2,326	2,274	2,349	113	102	106	4.6	4.3	4.3
Park	14,374	14,216	14,433	13,658	13,463	13,668	716	753	765	5.0	5.3	5.3
Washakie	4,600	4,537	4,844	4,361	4,359	4,455	239	178	389	5.2	3.9	8.0
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>44,930</b>	<b>44,418</b>	<b>44,888</b>	<b>43,169</b>	<b>42,545</b>	<b>42,780</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Campbell	20,559	20,370	20,489	19,908	19,717	19,636	651	653	853	3.2	3.2	4.2
Crook	3,066	3,003	3,126	2,921	2,857	2,931	145	146	195	4.7	4.9	6.2
Johnson	3,881	3,818	3,879	3,749	3,655	3,738	132	163	141	3.4	4.3	3.6
Sheridan	14,068	13,904	13,941	13,411	13,175	13,203	657	729	738	4.7	5.2	5.3
Weston	3,356	3,323	3,453	3,180	3,141	3,272	176	182	181	5.2	5.5	5.2
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>51,217</b>	<b>50,766</b>	<b>51,722</b>	<b>49,106</b>	<b>48,572</b>	<b>49,226</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Lincoln	6,380	6,334	6,533	5,971	5,906	6,073	409	428	460	6.4	6.8	7.0
Sublette	2,981	2,937	3,043	2,912	2,856	2,935	69	81	108	2.3	2.8	3.5
Sweetwater	19,857	19,585	20,364	18,931	18,635	19,309	926	950	1,055	4.7	4.9	5.2
Teton	11,756	11,711	11,270	11,557	11,514	11,062	199	197	208	1.7	1.7	1.8
Uinta	10,243	10,199	10,512	9,735	9,661	9,847	508	538	665	5.0	5.3	6.3
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>73,584</b>	<b>72,958</b>	<b>73,146</b>	<b>71,201</b>	<b>70,251</b>	<b>71,086</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>2,707</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Albany	19,396	18,935	19,122	18,985	18,520	18,762	411	415	360	2.1	2.2	1.9
Goshen	6,484	6,454	6,537	6,217	6,134	6,309	267	320	228	4.1	5.0	3.5
Laramie	41,717	41,682	41,168	40,283	40,028	39,926	1,434	1,654	1,242	3.4	4.0	3.0
Niobrara	1,245	1,217	1,309	1,197	1,151	1,276	48	66	33	3.9	5.4	2.5
Platte	4,742	4,670	5,010	4,519	4,418	4,813	223	252	197	4.7	5.4	3.9
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>50,097</b>	<b>49,732</b>	<b>49,184</b>	<b>47,939</b>	<b>47,352</b>	<b>46,799</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Carbon	7,974	7,925	8,239	7,600	7,499	7,894	374	426	345	4.7	5.4	4.2
Converse	6,841	6,809	6,687	6,520	6,436	6,338	321	373	349	4.7	5.5	5.2
Natrona	35,282	34,998	34,258	33,819	33,417	32,567	1,463	1,581	1,691	4.1	4.5	4.9
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>265,409</b>	<b>262,925</b>	<b>265,134</b>	<b>254,200</b>	<b>250,884</b>	<b>253,112</b>	<b>11,209</b>	<b>12,041</b>	<b>12,022</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										3.4	3.3	3.7
U.S.....										4.6	4.6	4.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.3	4.2	4.0

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/01. Run Date 04/01.  
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

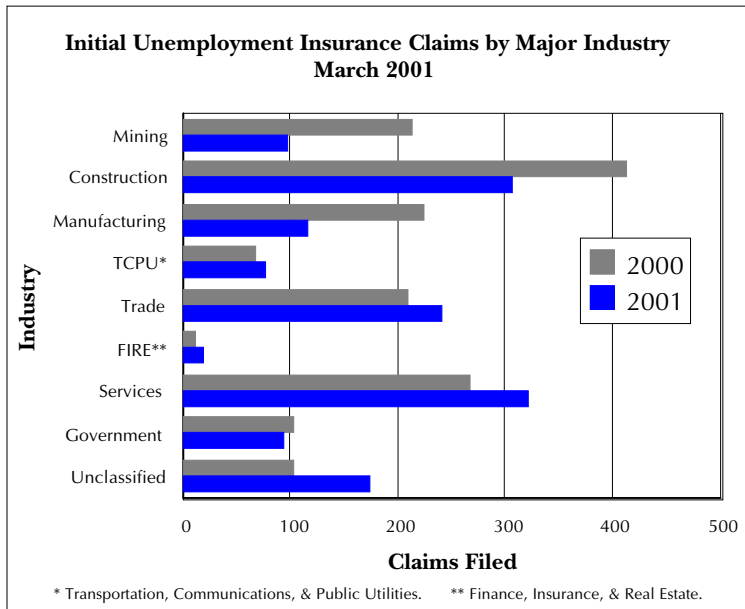
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2000 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.

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

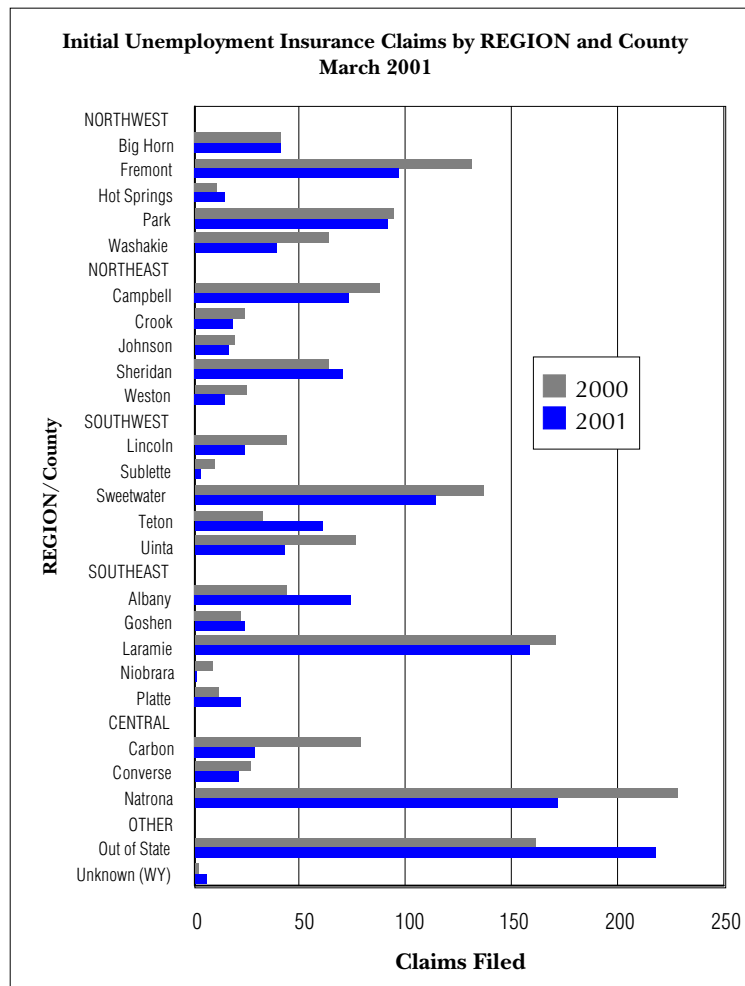
# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

**"Out-of-state initial claims are up 35.4 percent from March 2000 to March 2001."**



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	MAR.01	FEB.01	MAR.00	MAR.01	MAR.00
<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,448	1,654	1,618	-12.5	-10.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	522	776	852	-32.7	-38.7
Mining	98	103	213	-4.9	-54.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	83	82	189	1.2	-56.1
Construction	307	538	414	-42.9	-25.8
Manufacturing	117	135	225	-13.3	-48.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	752	715	663	5.2	13.4
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	77	96	69	-19.8	11.6
Transportation	64	82	61	-22.0	4.9
Communications & Public Utilities	13	14	8	-7.1	62.5
Trade	241	254	210	-5.1	14.8
Wholesale Trade	30	52	23	-42.3	30.4
Retail Trade	211	202	187	4.5	12.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	19	10	12	90.0	58.3
Services	321	265	268	21.1	19.8
Personal & Business Services	75	79	55	-5.1	36.4
Health Services	27	30	30	-10.0	-10.0
Government	94	90	104	4.4	-9.6
Local Government	31	33	36	-6.1	-13.9
Local Education	9	10	13	-10.0	-30.8
UNCLASSIFIED	174	163	103	6.7	68.9



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	MAR.01	FEB.01	MAR.00	MAR.01	MAR.00
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	156	195	175	-20.0	-10.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	51	92	76	-44.6	-32.9
Mining	0	1	2	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	45	80	68	-43.8	-33.8
Manufacturing	6	11	6	-45.5	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	93	89	90	4.5	3.3
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	15	14	18	7.1	-16.7
Transportation	10	10	16	0.0	-37.5
Communications & Public Utilities	5	4	2	25.0	150.0
Trade	30	35	36	-14.3	-16.7
Wholesale Trade	2	9	7	-77.8	-71.4
Retail Trade	28	26	29	7.7	-3.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	6	1	3	500.0	100.0
Services	34	28	21	21.4	61.9
Personal & Business Services	14	16	4	-12.5	250.0
Health Services	4	3	6	33.3	-33.3
Government	8	11	12	-27.3	-33.3
Local Government	2	2	2	0.0	0.0
Local Education	1	0	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	14	9	-14.3	33.3

	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	MAR.01	FEB.01	MAR.00	MAR.01	MAR.00
<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	172	214	230	-19.6	-25.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	58	101	127	-42.6	-54.3
Mining	13	10	36	30.0	-63.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	13	8	29	62.5	-55.2
Construction	37	79	69	-53.2	-46.4
Manufacturing	8	12	22	-33.3	-63.6
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	100	100	96	0.0	4.2
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	10	6	7	66.7	42.9
Transportation	9	6	6	50.0	50.0
Communications & Public Utilities	1	0	1	0.0	0.0
Trade	46	48	36	-4.2	27.8
Wholesale Trade	12	17	3	-29.4	300.0
Retail Trade	34	31	33	9.7	3.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3	1	4	200.0	-25.0
Services	37	40	41	-7.5	-9.8
Personal & Business Services	11	15	13	-26.7	-15.4
Health Services	4	8	5	-50.0	-20.0
Government	4	5	8	-20.0	-50.0
Local Government	2	0	4	0.0	-50.0
Local Education	1	0	2	0.0	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	14	13	7	7.7	100.0

## Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Rich Peters, Unemployment Insurance Analyst

**"While statewide over-the-year continued claims remain relatively steady at 3.1 percent for March 2001, Laramie County was up 29.8 percent in weeks claimed and 43.2 percent in unique claimants."**

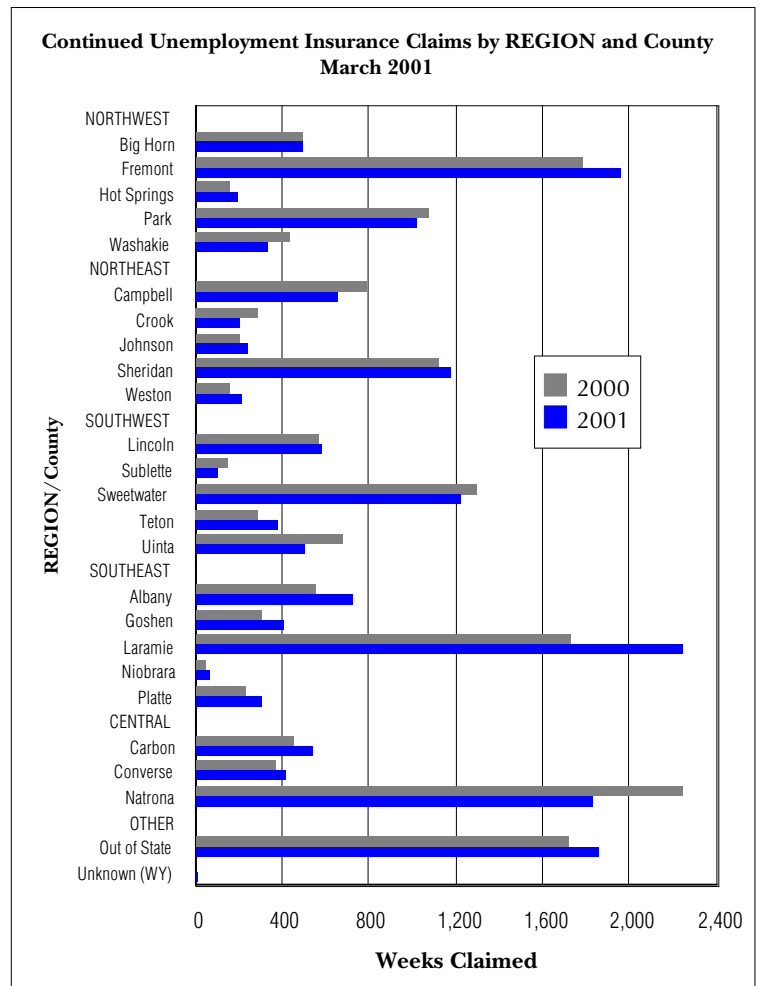
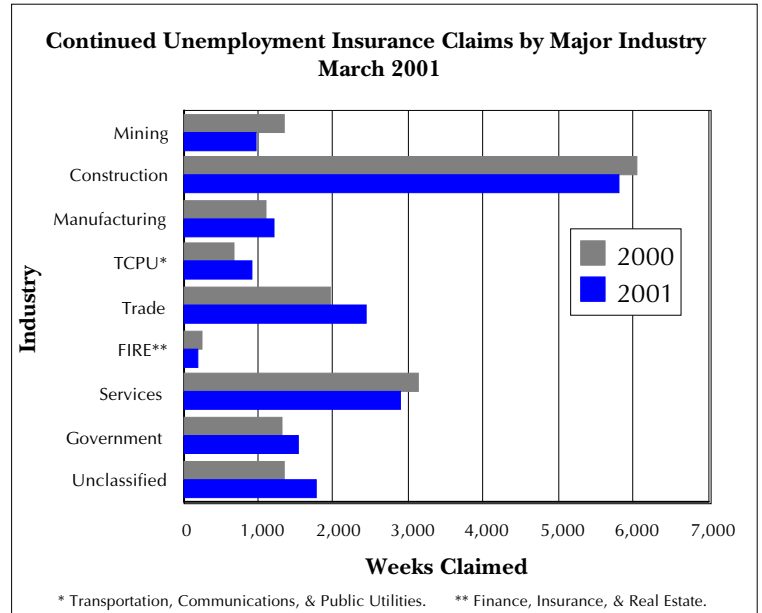
	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAR 01	FEB 01	MAR 00	MAR 01	MAR 00
<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	17,748	19,499	17,218	-9.0	3.1
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>5,561</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>19.6</b>
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	8,003	9,084	8,495	-11.9	-5.8
Mining	967	1,029	1,358	-6.0	-28.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	581	600	971	-3.2	-40.2
Construction	5,823	6,900	6,039	-15.6	-3.6
Manufacturing	1,213	1,155	1,098	5.0	10.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	7,976	8,631	7,365	-7.6	8.3
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	909	967	683	-6.0	33.1
Transportation	639	669	574	-4.5	11.3
Communications & Public Utilities	270	298	109	-9.4	147.7
Trade	2,437	2,376	1,960	2.6	24.3
Wholesale Trade	352	304	238	15.8	47.9
Retail Trade	2,085	2,072	1,722	0.6	21.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	193	227	255	-15.0	-24.3
Services	2,888	3,286	3,136	-12.1	-7.9
Personal & Business Services	818	1,015	919	-19.4	-11.0
Health Services	220	266	262	-17.3	-16.0
Government	1,549	1,775	1,331	-12.7	16.4
Local Government	458	482	378	-5.0	21.2
Local Education	113	116	113	-2.6	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	1,769	1,784	1,358	-0.8	30.3

### LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,246	2,637	1,730	-14.8	29.8
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>-9.9</b>	<b>43.2</b>
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,037	1,250	873	-17.0	18.8
Mining	31	37	22	-16.2	40.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	0	17	0.0	0.0
Construction	928	1,100	815	-15.6	13.9
Manufacturing	78	113	36	-31.0	116.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	1,062	1,213	715	-12.4	48.5
Transportation, Communications & P ublic Utilities	232	275	113	-15.6	105.3
Transportation	105	104	94	1.0	11.7
Communications & Public Utilities	127	171	19	-25.7	568.4
Trade	298	347	185	-14.1	61.1
Wholesale Trade	45	42	27	7.1	66.7
Retail Trade	253	305	158	-17.0	60.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	52	50	50	4.0	4.0
Services	348	417	279	-16.5	24.7
Personal & Business Services	139	175	142	-20.6	-2.1
Health Services	55	69	32	-20.3	71.9
Government	132	124	88	6.5	50.0
Local Government	45	35	22	28.6	104.5
Local Education	17	13	3	30.8	466.7
UNCLASSIFIED	147	174	142	-15.5	3.5

### NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,830	2,207	2,254	-17.1	-18.8
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	868	1,152	1,200	-24.7	-27.7
Mining	150	173	189	-13.3	-20.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	108	129	135	-16.3	-20.0
Construction	617	872	897	-29.2	-31.2
Manufacturing	101	107	114	-5.6	-11.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	865	944	932	-8.4	-7.2
Transportation, Communications & P ublic Utilities	83	113	100	-26.5	-17.0
Transportation	56	66	87	-15.2	-35.6
Communications & Public Utilities	27	47	13	-42.6	107.7
Trade	302	288	319	4.9	-5.3
Wholesale Trade	90	76	53	18.4	69.8
Retail Trade	212	212	266	0.0	-20.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	36	40	59	-10.0	-39.0
Services	320	358	366	-10.6	-12.6
Personal & Business Services	114	130	143	-12.3	-20.3
Health Services	43	48	70	-10.4	-38.6
Government	124	145	88	-14.5	40.9
Local Government	25	35	37	-28.6	-32.4
Local Education	6	9	8	-33.3	-25.0
UNCLASSIFIED	97	111	122	-12.6	-20.5



*After 5 Days Return to:*  
**Wyoming Department of Employment  
Research & Planning  
P.O. Box 2760  
Casper, WY 82602**

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**Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

