

TRENDS

The Structure of Wyoming Health Care Compensation

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

The following article is adapted from Private Sector Employee Access to Health Insurance and the Potential Wyo-Care Market, a recent publication from Research & Planning on the accessibility of employer-provided health benefits in Wyoming.

Benefits are becoming a larger portion of workers' total compensation and the rate of growth is increasing. As shown in Figure 1 (see page 3), wages and salaries tend to rise more slowly during periods of accelerated benefits costs (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004). Two such periods occurred during the early to mid-1990s and again at the turn of the century. Rapidly increasing benefit costs appear to constrain salary growth. Not only is a larger proportion of compensation dedicated to paying health care premiums but there also appear to be long-term effects on worker retirement income and employer profitability.

In order for employers to remain competitive during periods of rapidly rising costs, they may hire fewer workers or reduce benefits to current employees. "Health insurance...now costs the nation's employers an average of \$3,000 a year" (Porter, 2004).

Because the provision of health insurance is part of employers' overall compensation plans, health insurance needs to be understood in that context. Employers' plans and compensation strategies are, in part, a function of the economic niche occupied by their respective industries. The purpose of this article is to identify industries where intervention programs may work to reduce the number of individuals not currently covered by health insurance.

Understanding the Market: The Issues of Residency and Eligibility

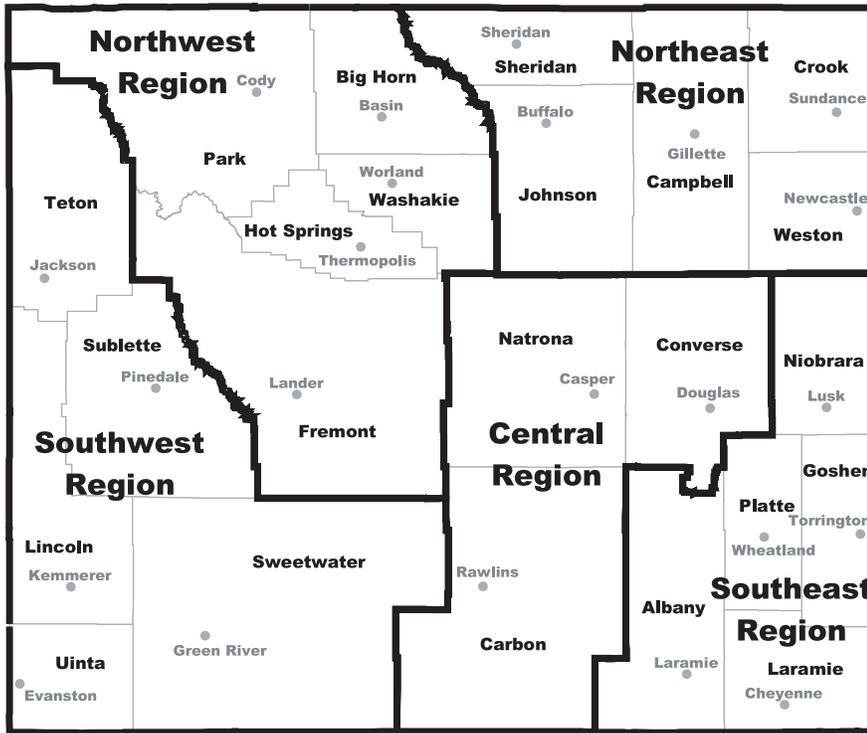
A central theme to understanding benefit access in Wyoming is residency (Jones, 2004). Residency is highly correlated with access to health insurance. Table 1 (see page 3) shows that the proportion of resident

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Natural Resources & Mining showed an over-the-year employment increase of 29.6 percent in Natrona County....page 10**
- **Wyoming's statewide unemployment rate decreased from 4.5 percent in March 2004 to 3.9 percent in March 2005....page 13**
- **Initial UI claims decreased 19.6 percent from March 2004 to March 2005....page 14**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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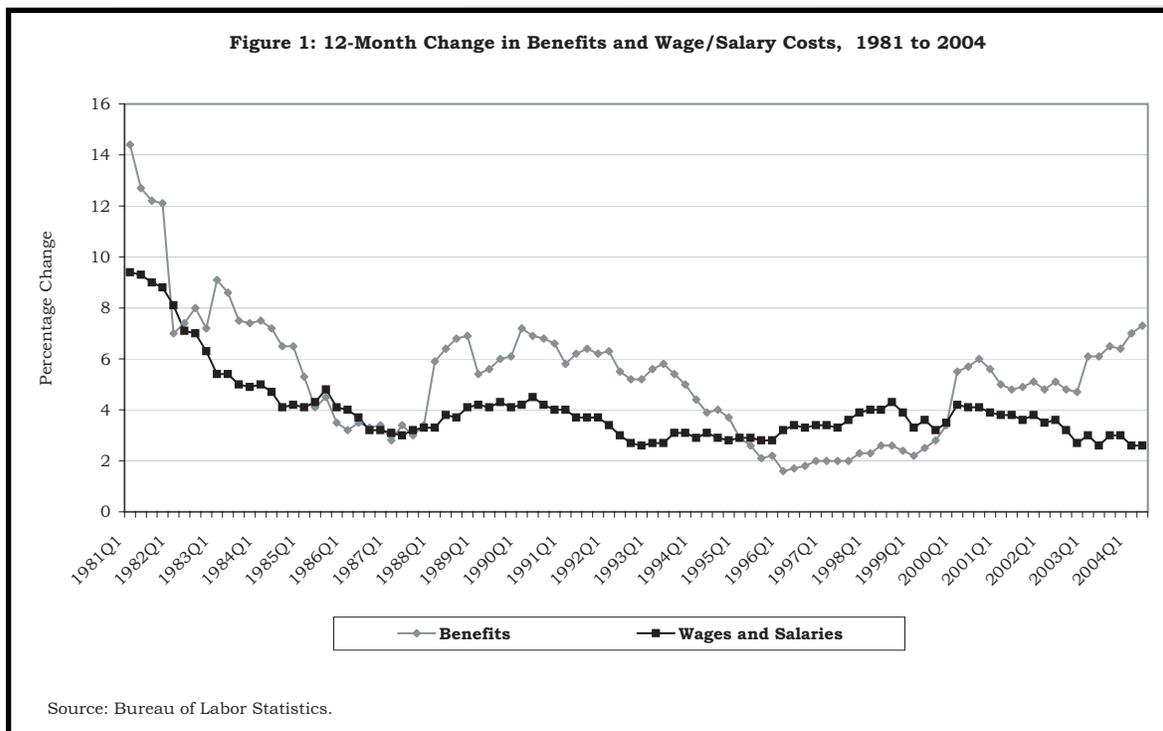
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Figure 1: 12-Month Change in Benefits and Wage/Salary Costs, 1981 to 2004



workers has declined steadily from 81.5 percent (218,107 workers) in 1992 to 79.0 percent in 2003 (254,743 workers). At the same time, the number of nonresident workers rose from 49,372 to 67,568. In 2003 more than one in five Wyoming workers were nonresidents. Harris (2004) estimated that on an annual average basis 9.4 percent of all UI covered workers had insufficient tenure with an employer to be eligible for health care insurance. However, nonresident workers may access health care (e.g., ER visits) while working in Wyoming. Consequently, there is a greater probability that they contribute to the cost of uncompensated care.

As shown in Figure 2 (see page 4), 77.5 percent of resident workers were eligible for benefits in third quarter 2002 compared to 55.5 percent of nonresident workers. Among resident workers, those who are highly tenured (five or more quarters attached to the same employer), make up three-fifths of the population (see Figure 3, page 4). The next largest group is marginal employees (those attached for short periods with long breaks) at 19.3 percent. Approximately one in ten

Table 1: Wyoming Resident and Nonresident Workers Using Current Method of Residency Determination by Year, 1992 to 2003

Year	Nonresident		Residents		Total
	N	%	N	%	
1992	49,372	18.5	218,107	81.5	267,479
1993	50,164	18.5	221,522	81.5	271,686
1994	53,397	19.0	227,228	81.0	280,625
1995	54,421	19.3	227,069	80.7	281,490
1996	55,262	19.5	228,594	80.5	283,856
1997	55,401	19.3	231,899	80.7	287,300
1998	59,451	20.1	236,354	79.9	295,805
1999	65,653	21.5	240,337	78.5	305,990
2000	63,230	20.5	245,066	79.5	308,296
2001	70,663	21.8	253,219	78.2	323,882
2002	63,860	20.1	254,116	79.9	317,976
2003	67,568	21.0	254,743	79.0	322,311

(10.7%) resident workers were seasonal employees. Transitioning workers (9.3% of the 2002 total) are in the process of establishing a highly tenured relationship with their employer. Resident workers are

Figure 2: Distribution of All Wyoming Workers Eligible to Receive Insurance Benefits by Residency Status, 2002Q3

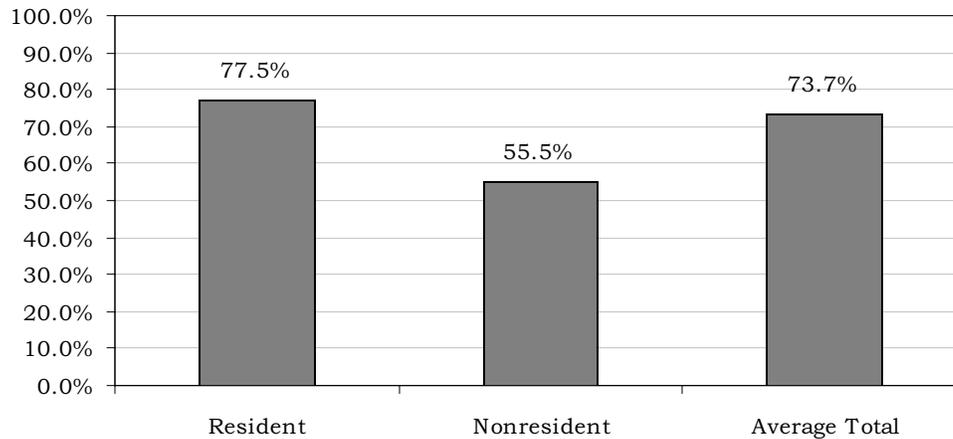
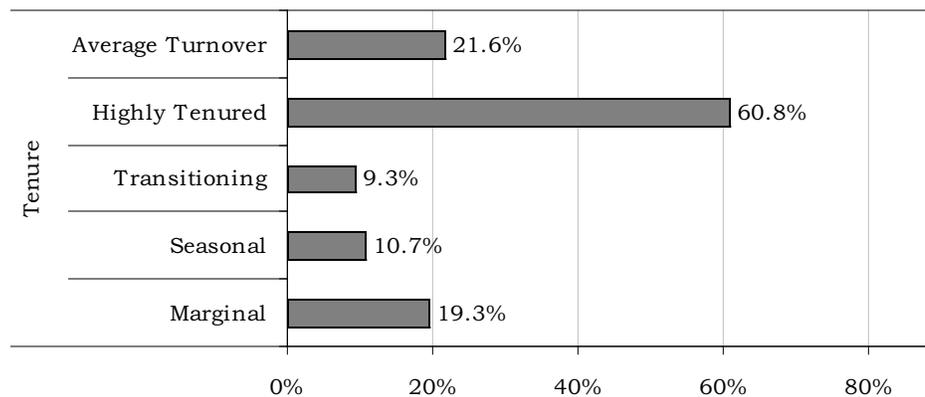


Figure 3: Wyoming Resident Worker Average Turnover and Distribution of All Wyoming Resident Workers by Tenure (Worker Attachment to Employer), 2002



more likely to maintain highly tenured relationships with employers. Therefore, they are more likely to be eligible for benefits.

Assuming that workers share at least some of the total premium cost, we see in Figure 4 (see page 5) that for those in the marginal or seasonal tenure categories, the average annual premium in 2002 (\$2,388) is nearly equal to one quarter's wages (\$2,072 and \$3,230, respectively). The ratio of annual wages to the average annual insurance cost

per worker for employers is larger for those either highly tenured or transitioning status, but the average premium still constitutes a substantial proportion of total compensation.

Health insurance is also associated with firm size. The larger the firm, the greater the probability of benefits offering. Figure 5 (see page 5) shows that 65 percent of workers in 2002 were offered health benefits. The proportion of workers offered benefits climbs steadily from 39 percent to 56 percent as

Figure 4: Average Annual Insurance Cost Per Worker for All Wyoming Employers and Average Quarterly Wage of All Wyoming Workers by Tenure (Worker Attachment to Employer), 2002

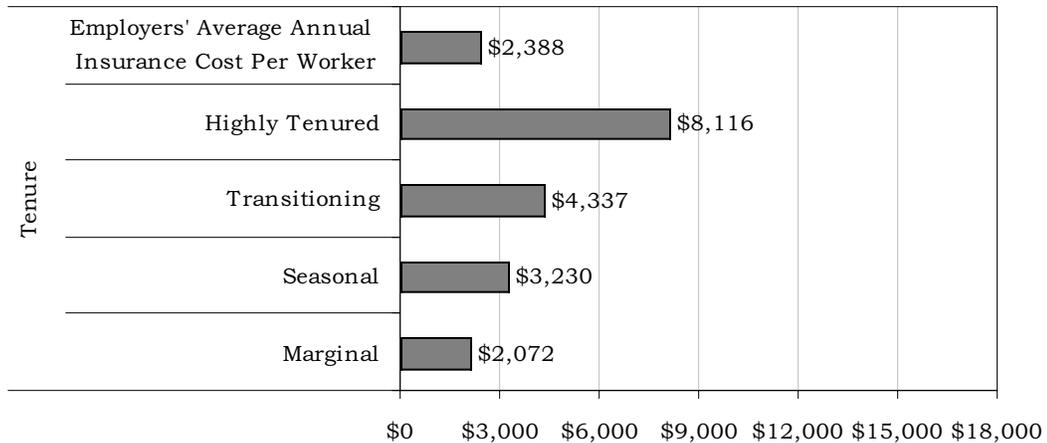
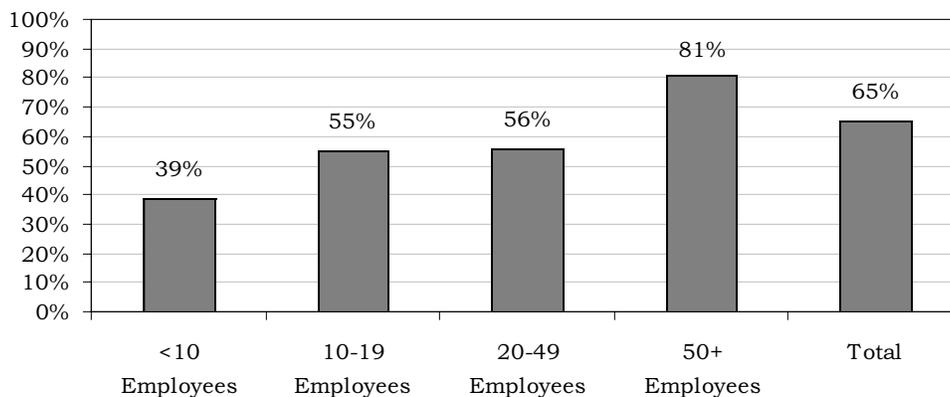


Figure 5: Percentage of All Wyoming Workers Offered Health Benefits by Firm Size, 2002



firm size increases from less than 10 employees to 49 employees, with a substantial increase to 81 percent when size increases to 50 or more employees. As shown in Table 2 (see page 6), more than three-quarters (75.5%) of employers in 2002 averaged less than ten workers, while only 4.1 percent employed 50 or more people.

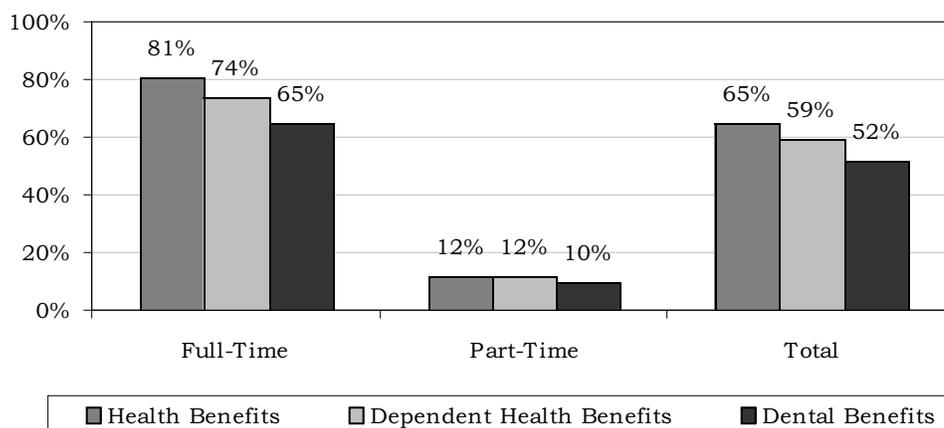
Full-time and part-time worker status also affects the availability of health and other

employer-provided benefits. The data in Figure 6 (see page 6) show not only the differences in benefit offerings between full- and part-time employees, but also how different benefits are made available in the workplace. Whether health, dependent health, or dental, the proportion of full-time workers offered these benefits in each case is much higher than for part-time employees.

(Text continued on page 7)

Table 2: Distribution of Wyoming Employers by Industry and Firm Size, 2002

Industry		Firm Size (Average Annual Employment)				Total
		<10	10 - 19	20 - 49	50+	
Mining	Employers	517	104	80	72	773
	Row %	66.9%	13.5%	10.3%	9.3%	100.0%
Construction	Employers	2,369	364	205	82	3,020
	Row %	78.4%	12.1%	6.8%	2.7%	100.0%
Manufacturing	Employers	432	96	65	49	642
	Row %	67.3%	15.0%	10.1%	7.6%	100.0%
Wholesale Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	Employers	1,408	212	116	58	1,794
	Row %	78.5%	11.8%	6.5%	3.2%	100.0%
Retail Trade	Employers	1,595	372	222	102	2,291
	Row %	69.6%	16.2%	9.7%	4.5%	100.0%
Information	Employers	180	36	38	24	278
	Row %	64.7%	12.9%	13.7%	8.6%	100.0%
Financial Activities	Employers	1,314	103	78	33	1,528
	Row %	86.0%	6.7%	5.1%	2.2%	100.0%
Professional & Business Services	Employers	2,446	263	121	44	2,874
	Row %	85.1%	9.2%	4.2%	1.5%	100.0%
Education & Health Care	Employers	1,027	194	117	94	1,432
	Row %	71.7%	13.5%	8.2%	6.6%	100.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	Employers	1,072	419	365	168	2,024
	Row %	53.0%	20.7%	18.0%	8.3%	100.0%
Other Services	Employers	1,418	138	31	17	1,604
	Row %	88.4%	8.6%	1.9%	1.1%	100.0%
Total	Employers	13,778	2,301	1,438	743	18,260
	Row %	75.5%	12.6%	7.9%	4.1%	100.0%

Figure 6: Percentage of All Wyoming Workers Offered Selected Benefits by Employment Status, 2002

Offering benefits to more full-time than part-time workers probably reflects employer retention strategies for employees who generate the most perceived value for their firms. Consequently, the proportions of part-time workers offered these benefits is comparatively low, with only 12 percent or one in eight part-time workers offered benefits.

Conclusion

An estimated 34,832 full-time and 49,018 part-time workers were not offered health benefits in 2002 (Gallagher et al., 2005). Because firm size and compensation are correlated, the 2,301 firms with an average size of 10-19 employees, and the 1,438 firms with 20-49 employees (see Table 2, page 6) in low-turnover industries may prove to be the most promising candidates for a health care coverage intervention program. At 17.4 percent, Manufacturing's turnover rate is below the state average of 24.8 percent. Lower turnover levels also characterize Wholesale Trade, Financial Activities, and Education & Health Care. The starting point

for an insurance initiative could be the almost 16,000 workers not offered health insurance in these industries.

Two other industries strongly suited to a health care coverage program are the expanding industries of Leisure & Hospitality and Retail Trade (Leonard, 2003). As shown in Table 3, part-time employment makes up nearly half (46.6%) of Leisure & Hospitality's workforce and over one-quarter (27.3%) of Retail Trade's. Leisure & Hospitality and Retail Trade comprise 18.4 and 15.8 percent, respectively, of total employment. Given the size of these industries, their projected growth, and their large share of part-time workers, employees in these industries are ideal candidates for insurance coverage programs.

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Table 3: Wyoming Average Quarterly Employment for All Workers by Industry, 2002

Industry		Total Employment		Full-Time Employment		Part-Time Employment	
		Estimate	Column %	Estimate	Row %	Estimate	Row %
Mining		21,195	9.0%	20,155	95.1%	1,040	4.9%
Construction		29,195	12.3%	26,064	89.3%	3,132	10.7%
Manufacturing		11,780	5.0%	11,075	94.0%	705	6.0%
Wholesale Trade, Trans., & Utilities		18,287	7.7%	16,282	89.0%	2,006	11.0%
Retail Trade		37,474	15.8%	27,251	72.7%	10,223	27.3%
Information		5,124	2.2%	3,729	72.8%	1,395	27.2%
Financial Activities		11,197	4.7%	9,083	81.1%	2,113	18.9%
Professional & Business Services		21,151	8.9%	16,819	79.5%	4,331	20.5%
Education & Health Care		28,576	12.1%	21,393	74.9%	7,184	25.1%
Leisure & Hospitality		43,533	18.4%	23,248	53.4%	20,285	46.6%
Other Services		8,921	3.8%	5,663	63.5%	3,258	36.5%
Total		236,432	100.0%	180,761	76.5%	55,671	23.5%
Firm Size	<10 Employees	46,794	19.8%	33,364	71.3%	13,431	28.7%
	10 - 19 Employees	36,467	15.4%	26,211	71.9%	10,256	28.1%
	20 - 49 Employees	41,091	17.4%	30,942	75.3%	10,149	24.7%
	50+ Employees	112,080	47.4%	90,245	80.5%	21,835	19.5%
	Total	236,432	100.0%	180,761	76.5%	55,671	23.5%

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Wyoming Job Growth Continues in March

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Boosted by high energy prices, Wyoming's healthy job growth continued in March. An estimated 5,400 jobs (2.2%) were created compared to the previous year. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly, rising from 2.9 percent in February to 3.1 percent in March. It remained well below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.2 percent.

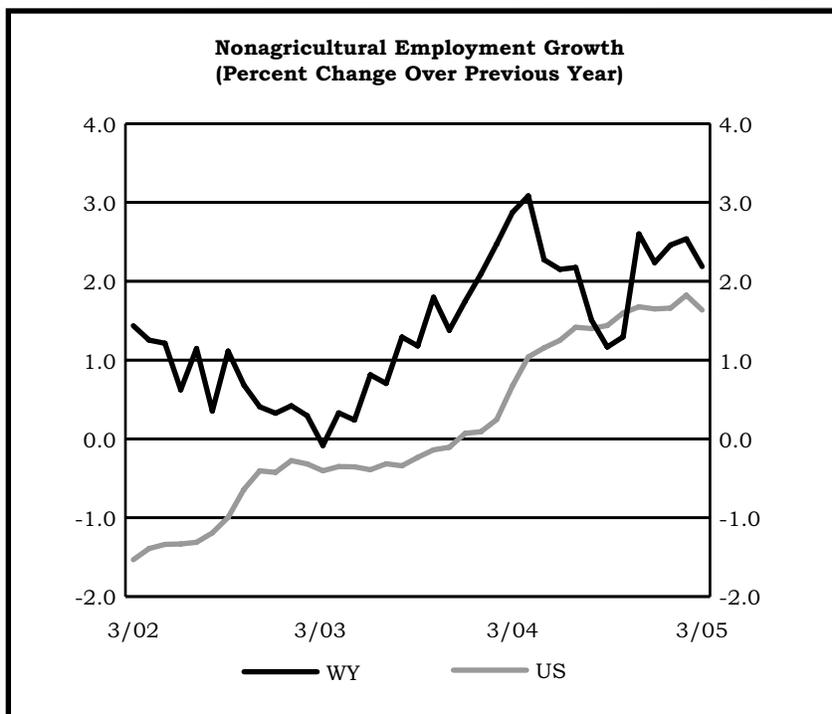
From February to March employment increased by 1,800 jobs or 0.7 percent. This level of growth is consistent with normal seasonal patterns for March. Minor job losses in Educational & Health Services (-300 jobs or -1.4%) were more than offset by seasonal gains in Construction (200 jobs or 1.2%), Manufacturing (200 jobs or 2.2%), Professional & Business Services (200 jobs or 1.4%), and Government (1,100 jobs or 1.7%).

Employment rose by 5,400 jobs or 2.2 percent when compared to March 2004. As in recent months, Natural Resources & Mining

(including oil & gas) posted the largest job gains (2,500 jobs or 13.1%). Other notable increases were seen in Manufacturing (300 jobs or 3.3%), Wholesale Trade (300 jobs or 4.2%), Transportation & Warehousing (400 jobs or 3.4%), Professional & Business Services (500 jobs or 3.5%), Educational & Health Services (400 jobs or 1.9%), and Government (600 jobs or 0.9%).

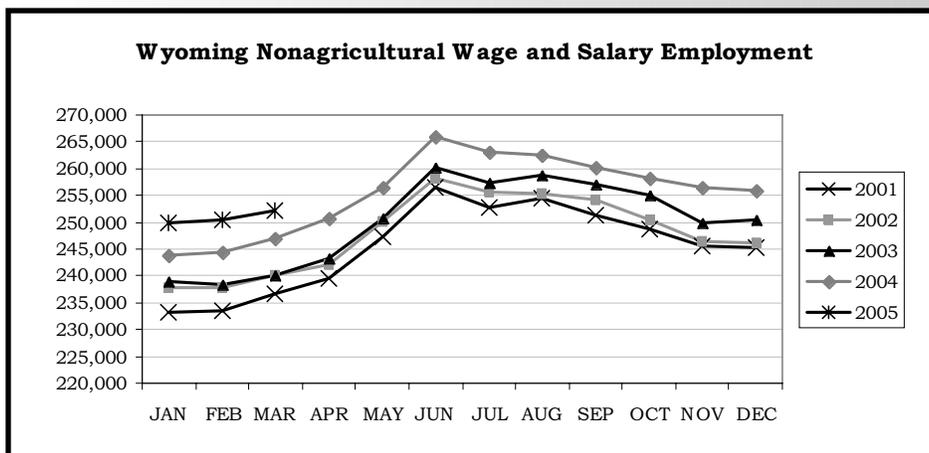
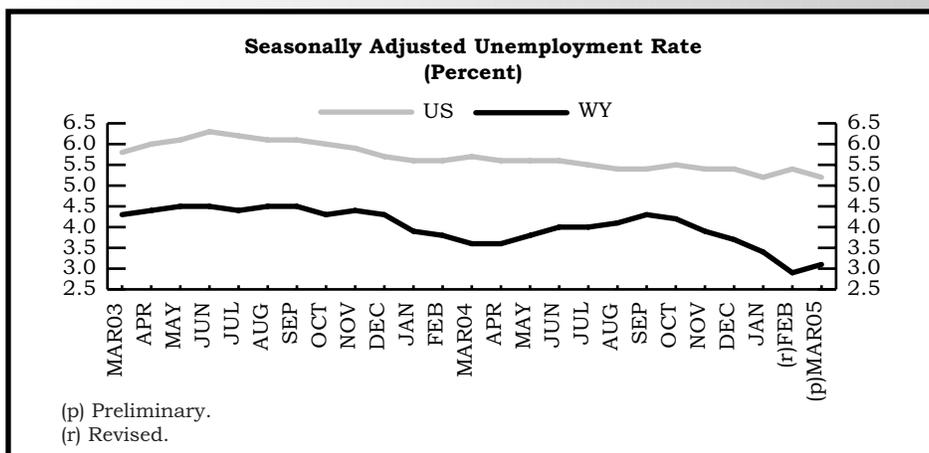
Most county unemployment rates were stable or increased slightly from February to March. Washakie County posted the largest increase, rising from 4.8 percent in February to 5.4 percent in March. It was followed by Goshen County (up from 4.7% in February to 5.1% in March) and Lincoln County (up from 3.9% in February to 4.3% in March). The highest unemployment rate was found in two neighboring counties, Big Horn and Washakie (both 5.4% in March). Sublette County again had the lowest unemployment rate in the state (2.2%).





State Unemployment Rates March 2005 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.1
District of Columbia	7.8
Mississippi	7.0
Michigan	6.9
South Carolina	6.8
Alaska	6.7
Ohio	6.3
Oregon	6.2
New Mexico	5.9
Tennessee	5.9
Missouri	5.7
Illinois	5.6
Indiana	5.6
Texas	5.6
California	5.4
Kansas	5.4
Pennsylvania	5.4
Kentucky	5.3
Louisiana	5.3
Arkansas	5.2
North Carolina	5.2
United States	5.2
Washington	5.2
West Virginia	5.2
Colorado	5.1
Iowa	5.1
Georgia	5.0
Connecticut	4.9
Massachusetts	4.9
Utah	4.8
Alabama	4.7
Arizona	4.7
Maine	4.7
Montana	4.6
New York	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Rhode Island	4.5
Florida	4.4
Minnesota	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Maryland	4.3
New Jersey	4.3
Idaho	4.2
Nebraska	4.0
Delaware	3.9
Nevada	3.9
New Hampshire	3.7
South Dakota	3.7
Vermont	3.4
North Dakota	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Wyoming	3.1
Hawaii	2.8



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Minor job losses in Educational & Health Services were more than offset by seasonal gains in Construction, Manufacturing, Professional & Business Services, and Government.

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Mar05(p)	Feb05(r)	Mar04(b)	Mar05	Mar05	Feb05	Mar04	Mar05(p)	Feb05(r)	Mar04(b)	Mar05	Mar05	Feb05	Mar04
WYOMING STATEWIDE								LARAMIE COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	252.3	250.5	246.9	0.7	2.2			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.6	40.3	40.1	0.7	1.2	
TOTAL PRIVATE	186.4	185.7	181.6	0.4	2.6			TOTAL PRIVATE	27.8	27.6	27.7	0.7	0.4	
GOODS PRODUCING	48.0	47.6	45.4	0.8	5.7			GOODS PRODUCING	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	
Natural Resources & Mining	21.6	21.6	19.1	0.0	13.1			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0	
Mining	21.4	21.5	19.0	-0.5	12.6			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.5	3.5	3.3	0.0	6.1			SERVICE PROVIDING	36.6	36.3	36.1	0.8	1.4	
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.5	7.5	7.3	0.0	2.7			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.5	8.4	8.3	1.2	2.4	
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Support Activities for Mining	10.4	10.5	8.4	-1.0	23.8			Retail Trade	5.3	5.2	5.3	1.9	0.0	
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	6.8	6.9	5.8	-1.4	17.2			Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7	
Construction	17.0	16.8	17.2	1.2	-1.2			Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	
Construction of Buildings	3.7	3.7	3.8	0.0	-2.6			Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.9	-4.4			Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	-3.0	
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.0	9.0	8.9	0.0	1.1			Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1	
Manufacturing	9.4	9.2	9.1	2.2	3.3			Leisure & Hospitality	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0	
Durable Goods	5.0	4.9	4.8	2.0	4.2			Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2	
Non-Durable Goods	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.8	12.7	12.4	0.8	3.2	
SERVICE PROVIDING	204.3	202.9	201.5	0.7	1.4			Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8	
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	48.4	48.1	47.6	0.6	1.7			State Government	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6	
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.4	7.2	1.4	4.2			Local Government	6.2	6.1	6.0	1.6	3.3	
Merchant Whlsrsls., Durable	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.0	7.0			Local Education	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	0.0	
Retail Trade	28.9	28.8	28.8	0.3	0.3			NATRONA COUNTY						
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.2	4.2	2.4	2.4			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	36.3	36.0	34.9	0.8	4.0	
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0			TOTAL PRIVATE	30.6	30.3	29.1	1.0	5.2	
Food & Beverage Stores	4.5	4.6	4.6	-2.2	-2.2			GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.3	6.5	1.4	13.8	
Grocery Stores	3.7	3.8	3.8	-2.6	-2.6			Natural Resources & Mining	3.5	3.5	2.7	0.0	29.6	
Gasoline Stations	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0			Construction	2.3	2.2	2.2	4.5	4.5	
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.4	5.5	1.9	0.0			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9			SERVICE PROVIDING	28.9	28.7	28.4	0.7	1.8	
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.0	11.9	11.6	0.8	3.4			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.2	8.2	8.0	0.0	2.5	
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3	
Transportation & Warehousing	9.8	9.7	9.4	1.0	4.3			Retail Trade	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	2.2	
Truck Transportation	3.5	3.5	3.2	0.0	9.4			Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	
Information	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0			Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	
Financial Activities	10.5	10.4	10.3	1.0	1.9			Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	
Finance & Insurance	6.9	6.8	6.8	1.5	1.5			Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.7	3.7	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9			Educational & Health Services	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.0	4.4	
Professional & Business Services	14.9	14.7	14.4	1.4	3.5			Leisure & Hospitality	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	7.7	7.7	7.6	0.0	1.3			Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	-1.7	
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3			Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	6.4	6.2	6.1	3.2	4.9			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Educational & Health Services	21.6	21.9	21.2	-1.4	1.9			Local Government	4.3	4.3	4.4	0.0	-2.3	
Educational	2.0	2.1	2.0	-4.8	0.0			Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.4	-3.2	
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.6	19.8	19.2	-1.0	2.1									
Ambulatory Health Care	7.3	7.5	7.2	-2.7	1.4									
Offices of Physicians	3.0	3.1	3.0	-3.2	0.0									
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	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0	2.0									
Leisure & Hospitality	29.0	29.0	28.8	0.0	0.7									
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-4.3									
Accommodation & Food Services	26.8	26.8	26.5	0.0	1.1									
Accommodation	9.5	9.6	9.4	-1.0	1.1									
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.3	17.2	17.1	0.6	1.2									
Other Services	9.7	9.7	9.6	0.0	1.0									
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3									
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.9	64.8	65.3	1.7	0.9									
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.2	0.0	-1.4									
State Government	15.6	15.4	15.6	1.3	0.0									
State Govt. Education	6.3	6.3	6.4	0.0	-1.6									
Local Government	43.2	42.3	42.5	2.1	1.6									
Local Govt. Education	22.8	22.5	22.7	1.3	0.4									
Hospitals	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8									

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	
	Mar05(p)	Feb05(r)	Mar04(b)	Mar05	Mar04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.8	21.7	21.2	0.5	2.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.8	17.7	17.3	0.6	2.9
GOODS PRODUCING	8.6	8.6	8.3	0.0	3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	6.3	6.3	6.0	0.0	5.0
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.2	13.1	12.9	0.8	2.3
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	1.7	1.6	1.6	6.2	6.2
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	21.3	21.0	20.4	1.4	4.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.0	16.8	16.2	1.2	4.9
GOODS PRODUCING	7.0	6.8	6.5	2.9	7.7
Natural Resources & Mining	4.5	4.4	4.0	2.3	12.5
Construction	1.4	1.3	1.4	7.7	0.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.3	14.2	13.9	0.7	2.9
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.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.2	4.2	2.4	2.4
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.3	15.4	15.4	-0.6	-0.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.1	13.3	13.2	-1.5	-0.8
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	13.5	13.6	13.5	-0.7	0.0
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.2	2.3	2.3	-4.3	-4.3
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	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5.5	5.6	5.5	-1.8	0.0
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.8	0.0

State Unemployment Rates March 2005 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.4
District of Columbia	7.6
Michigan	7.6
Alaska	7.4
Mississippi	7.0
Oregon	6.8
Ohio	6.7
South Carolina	6.5
Missouri	6.1
Tennessee	6.1
Indiana	6.0
Illinois	5.9
New Mexico	5.9
Pennsylvania	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
California	5.7
Iowa	5.7
Kentucky	5.7
Washington	5.7
Montana	5.6
Colorado	5.5
Kansas	5.5
Maine	5.5
Texas	5.5
Wisconsin	5.5
Arkansas	5.4
United States	5.4
Massachusetts	5.3
Rhode Island	5.3
North Carolina	5.2
Idaho	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
Georgia	5.0
Louisiana	5.0
Minnesota	5.0
Utah	5.0
New York	4.9
Alabama	4.6
Arizona	4.6
New Jersey	4.6
Oklahoma	4.6
Maryland	4.5
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.3
Florida	4.2
North Dakota	4.2
Delaware	4.1
Nevada	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Vermont	4.0
Wyoming	3.9
Virginia	3.4
Hawaii	2.6

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes Rig Count for Wyoming increased 14.3 percent over the year.

	Mar	Feb	Mar	Percent Change	
	2005	2005	2004	Month	Year
	(p)	(r)	(b)		
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	282,102	279,670	278,336	0.9	1.4
Unemployed	11,060	10,743	12,440	3.0	-11.1
Employed	271,042	268,927	265,896	0.8	1.9
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.9%/3.1%	3.8%/2.9%	4.5%/3.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.4%/5.2%	5.8%/5.4%	6.0%/5.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,621,000	7,667,000	7,377,000	-0.6	3.3
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	480,000	485,000	514,000	-1.0	-6.6
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,514,000	4,487,000	4,868,000	0.6	-7.3
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$994.55	\$1,071.21	\$988.13	-7.2	0.6
Average Weekly Hours	47.7	45.7	43.8	4.4	8.9
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$859.25	\$858.19	\$827.40	0.1	3.8
Average Weekly Hours	45.9	45.6	44.7	0.7	2.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$679.40	\$725.00	\$646.02	-6.3	5.2
Average Weekly Hours	39.5	41.1	38.8	-3.9	1.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$661.75	\$663.77	\$652.80	-0.3	1.4
Average Weekly Hours	40.4	40.4	40.8	0.0	-1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	19,890	17,535	23,143	13.4	-14.1
Benefits Paid	\$4,717,474	\$4,187,267	\$5,434,029	12.7	-13.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$237.18	\$238.79	\$234.80	-0.7	1.0
State Insured Covered Jobs	229,712	227,790	227,375	0.8	1.0
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	193.3	191.8	187.4	0.8	3.1
Housing	189.6	189.3	184.9	0.2	2.5
Apparel	194.1	192.7	187.9	0.7	3.3
Transportation	123.5	118.7	123.5	4.0	0.0
Medical Care	168.8	166.1	160.5	1.6	5.2
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	320.7	319.3	307.5	0.4	4.3
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	109.0	109.0	108.8	0.0	0.2
Other Goods & Services	112.7	112.8	111.1	-0.1	1.4
Other Goods & Services	311.2	310.8	303.1	0.1	2.7
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	153.6	151.6	143.1	1.3	7.3
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	253	168	255	50.6	-0.8
Valuation	\$52,681,000	\$23,585,000	\$34,321,000	123.4	53.5
Single Family Homes	226	140	208	61.4	8.7
Valuation	\$50,538,000	\$22,087,000	\$31,275,000	128.8	61.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	72	68	63	5.9	14.3

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Economist

The highest unemployment rate was found in two neighboring counties, Big Horn and Washakie (both 5.4% in March).

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2005 (p)	Feb 2005 (r)	Mar 2004 (b)									
NORTHWEST	44,487	43,836	43,998	42,240	41,707	41,463	2,247	2,129	2,535	5.1	4.9	5.8
Big Horn	5,375	5,314	5,269	5,085	5,026	4,973	290	288	296	5.4	5.4	5.6
Fremont	18,193	17,891	17,982	17,234	16,975	16,805	959	916	1,177	5.3	5.1	6.5
Hot Springs	2,351	2,303	2,412	2,255	2,209	2,297	96	94	115	4.1	4.1	4.8
Park	14,258	14,037	14,091	13,588	13,414	13,368	670	623	723	4.7	4.4	5.1
Washakie	4,310	4,291	4,244	4,078	4,083	4,020	232	208	224	5.4	4.8	5.3
NORTHEAST	49,165	48,780	48,484	47,480	47,109	46,559	1,685	1,671	1,925	3.4	3.4	4.0
Campbell	23,499	23,460	23,280	22,883	22,829	22,516	616	631	764	2.6	2.7	3.3
Crook	3,139	3,090	2,983	3,013	2,966	2,840	126	124	143	4.0	4.0	4.8
Johnson	3,753	3,658	3,643	3,595	3,502	3,491	158	156	152	4.2	4.3	4.2
Sheridan	15,615	15,438	15,473	14,973	14,809	14,749	642	629	724	4.1	4.1	4.7
Weston	3,159	3,134	3,105	3,016	3,003	2,963	143	131	142	4.5	4.2	4.6
SOUTHWEST	57,645	57,335	56,922	55,626	55,377	54,613	2,019	1,958	2,309	3.5	3.4	4.1
Lincoln	8,765	8,711	9,054	8,390	8,367	8,656	375	344	398	4.3	3.9	4.4
Sublette	4,351	4,324	4,153	4,256	4,231	4,032	95	93	121	2.2	2.2	2.9
Sweetwater	22,210	22,045	21,661	21,505	21,334	20,832	705	711	829	3.2	3.2	3.8
Teton	11,815	11,851	11,194	11,422	11,458	10,740	393	393	454	3.3	3.3	4.1
Uinta	10,504	10,404	10,860	10,053	9,987	10,353	451	417	507	4.3	4.0	4.7
SOUTHEAST	76,077	75,430	75,556	73,011	72,448	72,276	3,066	2,982	3,280	4.0	4.0	4.3
Albany	21,106	20,964	21,131	20,519	20,370	20,461	587	594	670	2.8	2.8	3.2
Goshen	5,906	5,815	5,759	5,603	5,541	5,465	303	274	294	5.1	4.7	5.1
Laramie	43,736	43,458	43,357	41,814	41,608	41,323	1,922	1,850	2,034	4.4	4.3	4.7
Niobrara	1,126	1,087	1,126	1,079	1,041	1,079	47	46	47	4.2	4.2	4.2
Platte	4,203	4,106	4,183	3,996	3,888	3,948	207	218	235	4.9	5.3	5.6
CENTRAL	54,727	54,286	53,376	52,684	52,286	50,985	2,043	2,000	2,391	3.7	3.7	4.5
Carbon	7,572	7,466	7,635	7,226	7,132	7,204	346	334	431	4.6	4.5	5.6
Converse	6,378	6,342	6,453	6,115	6,079	6,164	263	263	289	4.1	4.1	4.5
Natrona	40,777	40,478	39,288	39,343	39,075	37,617	1,434	1,403	1,671	3.5	3.5	4.3
STATEWIDE	282,102	279,670	278,336	271,042	268,927	265,896	11,060	10,743	12,440	3.9	3.8	4.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.1	2.9	3.6
U.S.....										5.4	5.8	6.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.2	5.4	5.7

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/05. Run Date 04/05.

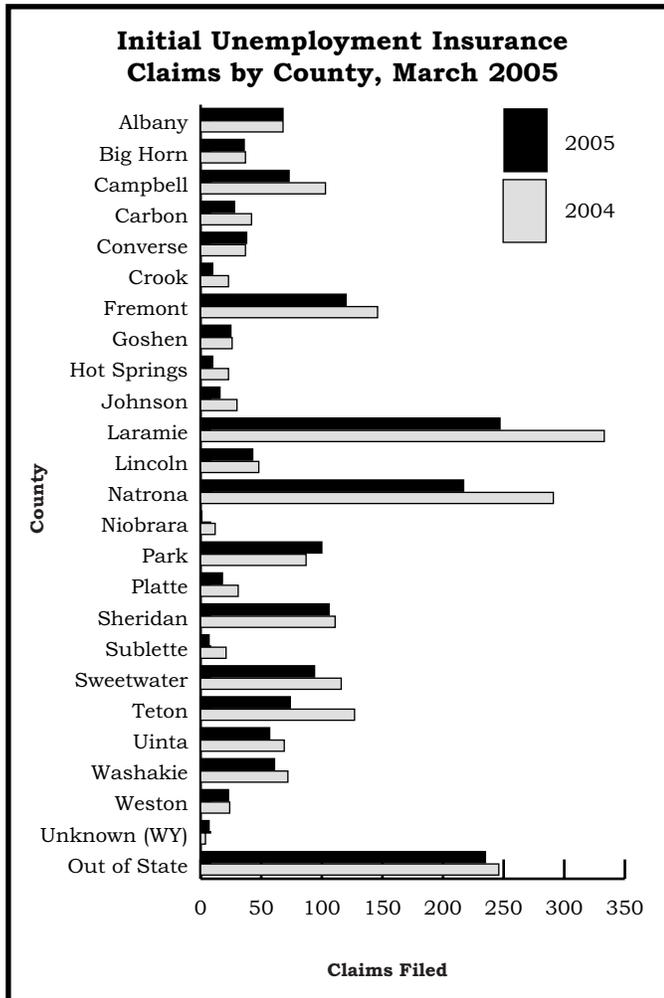
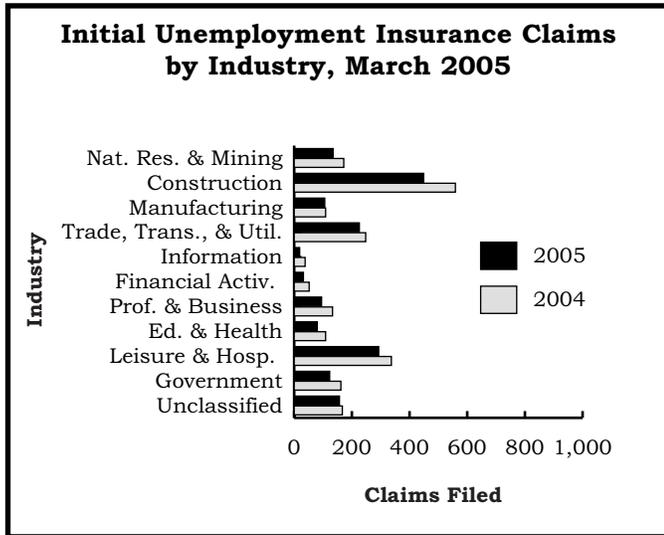
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Initial claims continued to decline in March 2005 in most industries statewide with the exception of Wholesale Trade.

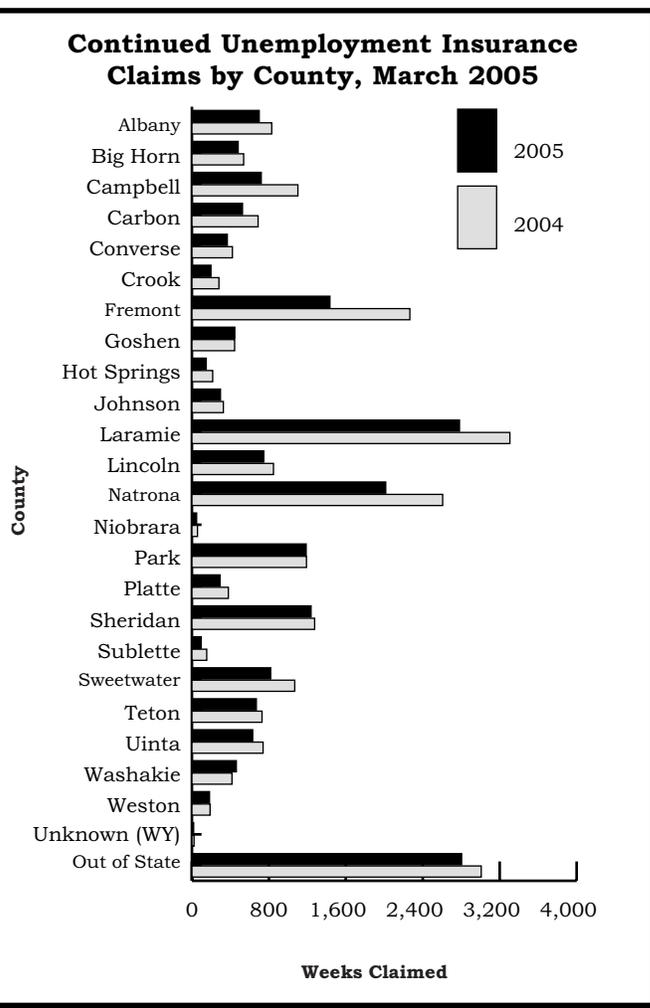
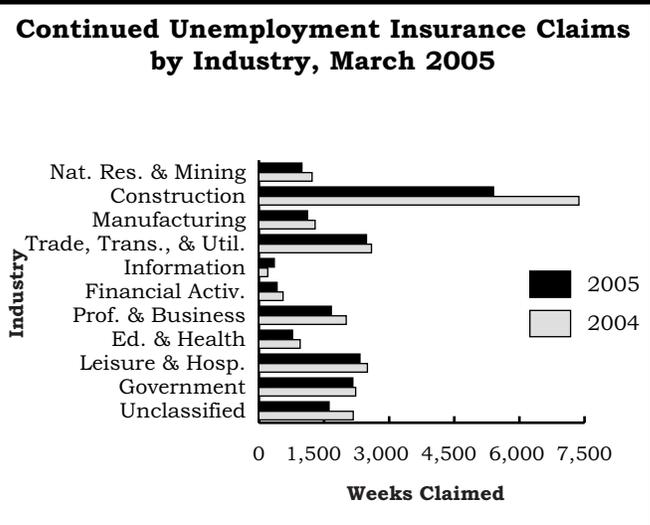


WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Mar05	Feb05	Mar04	Mar05	Mar05
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,715	1,951	2,133	-12.1	-19.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	690	950	840	-27.4	-17.9
Natural Resources and Mining	135	112	172	20.5	-21.5
Mining	112	103	144	8.7	-22.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	9	6	18	50.0	-50.0
Construction	449	602	559	-25.4	-19.7
Manufacturing	106	236	109	-55.1	-2.8
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	768	722	987	6.4	-22.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	226	282	248	-19.9	-8.9
Wholesale Trade	27	34	23	-20.6	17.4
Retail Trade	130	175	152	-25.7	-14.5
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	69	73	73	-5.5	-5.5
Information	19	13	38	46.2	-50.0
Financial Activities	32	35	52	-8.6	-38.5
Professional & Business Serv.	95	132	133	-28.0	-28.6
Educational & Health Services	80	67	109	19.4	-26.6
Leisure & Hospitality	293	155	337	89.0	-13.1
Other Services	23	38	70	-39.5	-67.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	123	130	162	-5.4	-24.1
Federal Government	64	49	74	30.6	-13.5
State Government	23	15	25	53.3	-8.0
Local Government	36	66	63	-45.5	-42.9
Local Education	6	16	19	-62.5	-68.4
UNCLASSIFIED	134	149	144	-10.1	-6.9
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	248	310	334	-20.0	-25.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	100	154	115	-35.1	-13.0
Construction	87	134	98	-35.1	-11.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	122	122	180	0.0	-32.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	52	55	37	-5.5	40.5
Financial Activities	6	4	7	50.0	-14.3
Professional & Business Serv.	18	26	52	-30.8	-65.4
Educational & Health Services	12	6	15	100.0	-20.0
Leisure & Hospitality	27	23	13	17.4	107.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	21	20	-23.8	-20.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	13	19	-23.1	-47.4
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	217	232	292	-6.5	-25.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	103	102	140	1.0	-26.4
Construction	81	82	106	-1.2	-23.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	104	115	137	-9.6	-24.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	33	44	37	-25.0	-10.8
Financial Activities	7	8	8	-12.5	-12.5
Professional & Business Serv.	11	16	25	-31.3	-56.0
Educational & Health Services	22	18	26	22.2	-15.4
Leisure & Hospitality	22	16	27	37.5	-18.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	6	10	11	-40.0	-45.5
UNCLASSIFIED	4	5	4	-20.0	0.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

The March 2005 continued claims level was the third lowest seen for March in the last eight years.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Percent Change				
	Claims Filed		Claims Filed		
	Mar05	Feb05	Mar04	Mar05	Mar05
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	19,318	21,570	23,106	-10.4	-16.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,056	6,451	6,034	-21.6	-16.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	7,515	8,575	9,891	-12.4	-24.0
Natural Resources and Mining	991	1,104	1,225	-10.2	-19.1
Mining	830	814	1,007	2.0	-17.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	110	90	144	22.2	-23.6
Construction	5,404	6,444	7,371	-16.1	-26.7
Manufacturing	1,120	1,027	1,295	9.1	-13.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	8,374	9,093	9,483	-7.9	-11.7
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	2,478	2,593	2,593	-4.4	-4.4
Wholesale Trade	333	398	339	-16.3	-1.8
Retail Trade	1,454	1,478	1,594	-1.6	-8.8
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	691	717	660	-3.6	4.7
Information	355	392	204	-9.4	74.0
Financial Activities	419	434	556	-3.5	-24.6
Professional & Business Serv.	1,668	2,036	2,011	-18.1	-17.1
Educational & Health Serv.	774	740	950	4.6	-18.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,328	2,492	2,499	-6.6	-6.8
Other Services	352	406	670	-13.3	-47.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,164	2,445	2,229	-11.5	-2.9
Federal Government	1,141	1,346	1,082	-15.2	5.5
State Government	261	286	282	-8.7	-7.4
Local Government	762	813	865	-6.3	-11.9
Local Education	150	126	181	19.0	-17.1
UNCLASSIFIED	1,265	1,457	1,503	-13.2	-15.8
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,779	3,228	3,304	-13.9	-15.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	740	980	863	-24.5	-14.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,131	1,301	1,306	-13.1	-13.4
Construction	1,007	1,180	1,121	-14.7	-10.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,348	1,549	1,582	-13.0	-14.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	462	483	371	-4.3	24.5
Financial Activities	79	111	116	-28.8	-31.9
Professional & Business Serv.	333	400	406	-16.8	-18.0
Educational & Health Services	94	130	162	-27.7	-42.0
Leisure & Hospitality	136	122	146	11.5	-6.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	230	274	277	-16.1	-17.0
UNCLASSIFIED	70	104	139	-32.7	-49.6
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,019	2,308	2,606	-12.5	-22.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	551	711	724	-22.5	-23.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	769	942	1,140	-18.4	-32.5
Construction	589	758	949	-22.3	-37.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,093	1,183	1,279	-7.6	-14.5
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	376	398	378	-5.5	-0.5
Financial Activities	87	98	92	-11.2	-5.4
Professional & Business Serv.	235	315	317	-25.4	-25.9
Educational & Health Services	150	130	199	15.4	-24.6
Leisure & Hospitality	152	154	220	-1.3	-30.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	99	110	96	-10.0	3.1
UNCLASSIFIED	58	73	91	-20.5	-36.3



Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
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