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TRENDS

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Barriers to Growth in Wyoming's Economy

by: Doug Leonard, Senior Economist

The opportunities and concerns associated with rapid economic expansion include aging, health care, inflation, housing, labor competition, and mineral production, among others.

Generally, population and infrastructure evolve slowly and do not easily accommodate rapid economic change – in colloquial terms, a boom. The recent surge in Wyoming's economy created a substantial number of jobs in recent years. At the same time, the supply of resident labor declined, leading to an influx of nonresidents to fill available jobs (Jones, 2007). Along with increased job growth, wage growth increased, leading to greater purchasing power for many workers. Increased purchasing power enables workers to buy more goods, including housing. In some areas of the state the demand for housing exceeds the supply, thereby placing upward pressure on prices and wages for a myriad of occupations. Against the backdrop of economic expansion, Wyoming's population is aging rapidly and the ability of the state's health care institutions to respond to the challenge is in question (Research & Planning, 2008). In this article, we examine the opportunities and concerns associated with rapid economic expansion, such as aging, health care, inflation, purchasing power, and mineral production, to place them in the proper context.

Energy Prices and Transport Capacity

Much of the current economic expansion is due to natural gas production. However, prices obtained by

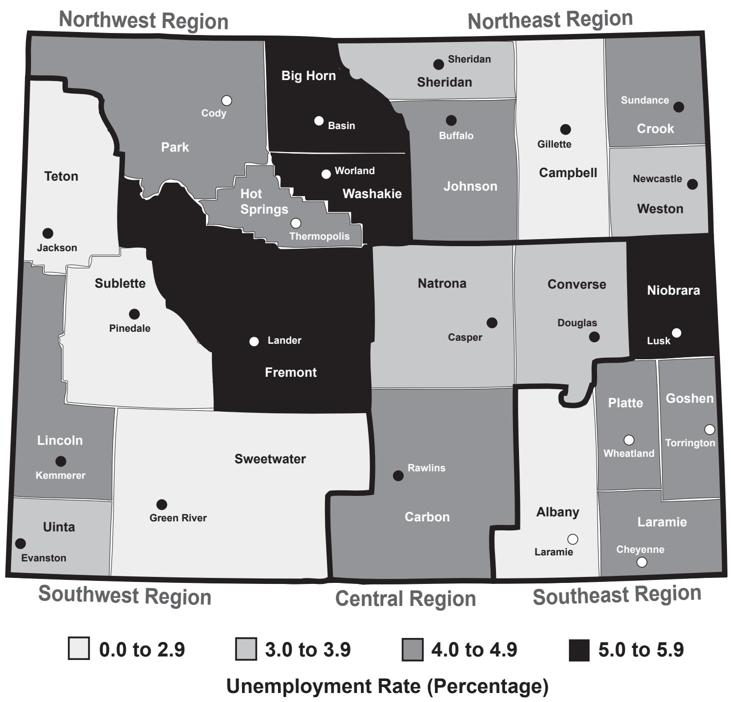
(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Running a business can be a daunting task. Fortunately, there is help for employers. The Wyoming Department of Employment is sponsoring the 2008 Employer Seminars, coming to a town near you....*page 11***
- **Wyoming job growth moderated somewhat, as the over-the-year growth rate slowed from 3.2% in February to 2.7% in March. However, Wyoming's job growth rate has consistently ranked among the fastest of any state....*page 16***

http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, March 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



IN THIS ISSUE

Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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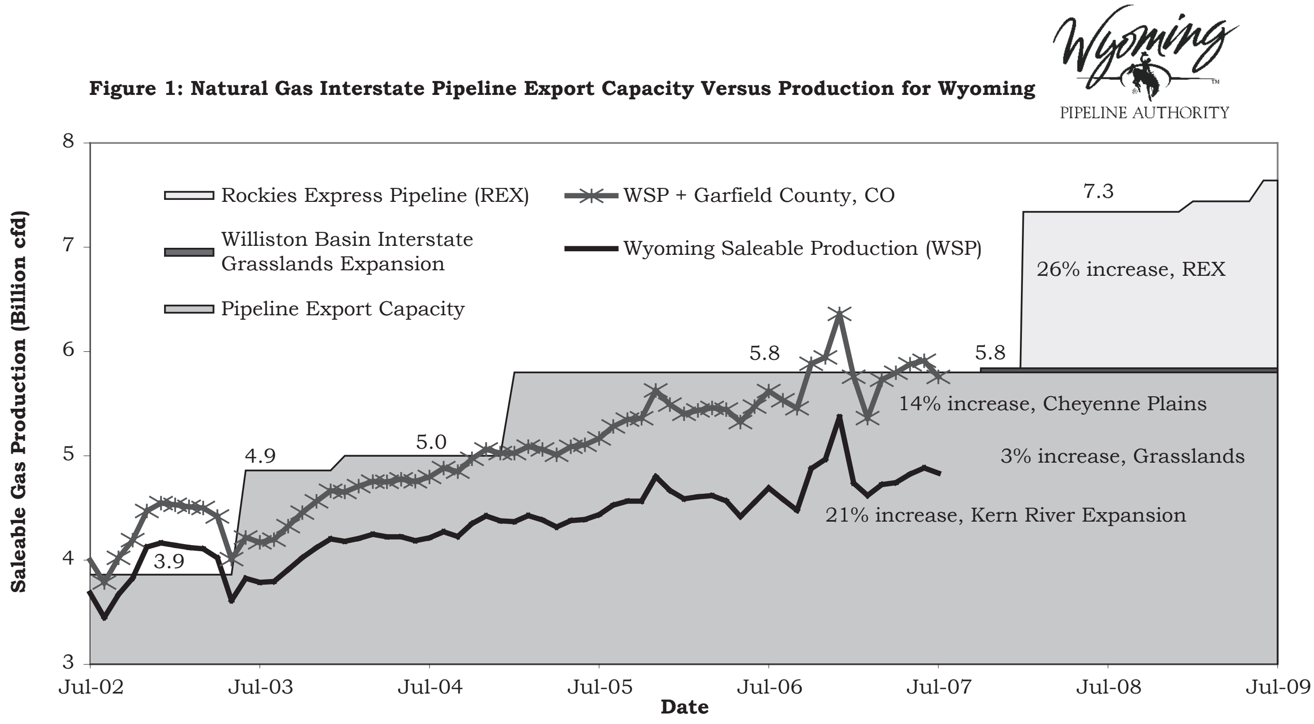
(Text continued from page 1)

Wyoming suppliers are determined not only by aggregate national demand, but also by the ability to efficiently move produced gas to market through pipelines (takeaway capacity). Whenever the amount of produced gas exceeds the state's takeaway capacity, prices can decline rapidly, reducing producer profitability and state revenues from mineral royalties and taxes. Additionally, drilling activity tends to decrease along with prices.

The interaction of these market forces is shown in Figure 1, which illustrates occasions when the volume of produced gas has exceeded pipeline capacity. When this happens, production usually falls until supply and takeaway capacity roughly equalize. This phenomenon has occurred twice in the past, from late 2002 into 2003 and again in 2006. Note that the figure shows Wyoming production and Garfield County, CO, production. This is because gas flows north from western Colorado into pipelines in Wyoming, thereby using an incremental amount of capacity. Figure 1 suggests that current area natural gas production will soon exceed supply. This will continue until natural gas is transmitted via new pipelines, most notably the Rockies Express (REX) project (see Map, page 4). REX will connect Wyoming and Colorado suppliers to customers in the eastern United States (Kinder Morgan, n.d.). Future pipeline projects may include Spectra Energy's Bronco Pipeline (n.d.) and El Paso Corporation's Ruby Pipeline (2007). News releases indicate both projects will originate in southwestern Wyoming and terminate at a natural gas trading hub in Oregon.

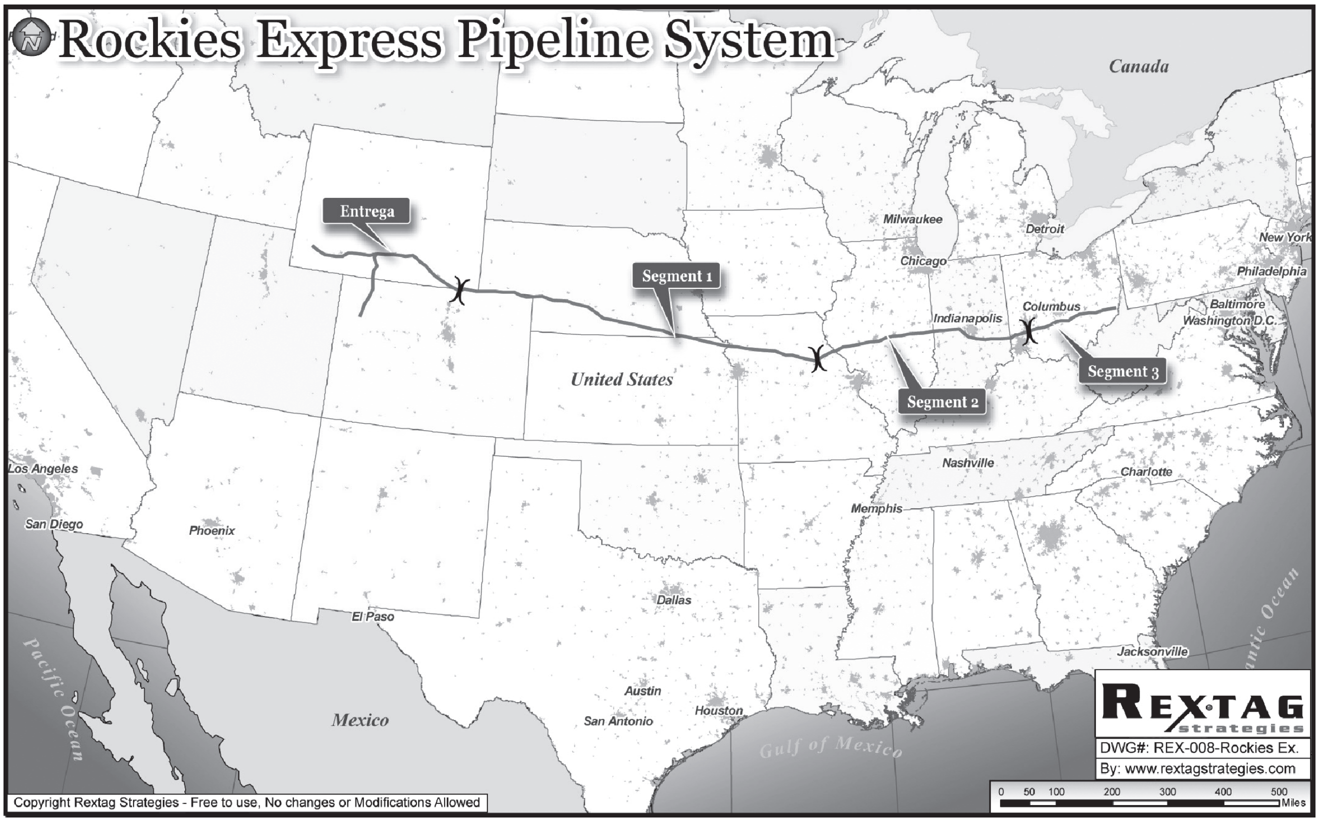
While Figure 1 illustrates the supply-demand balance for Wyoming natural

Figure 1: Natural Gas Interstate Pipeline Export Capacity Versus Production for Wyoming



Pipeline capacity data source: Colby Drechsel, Associate Director, Wyoming Pipeline Authority.
Saleable gas production data source: Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Map: Rockies Express Pipeline System



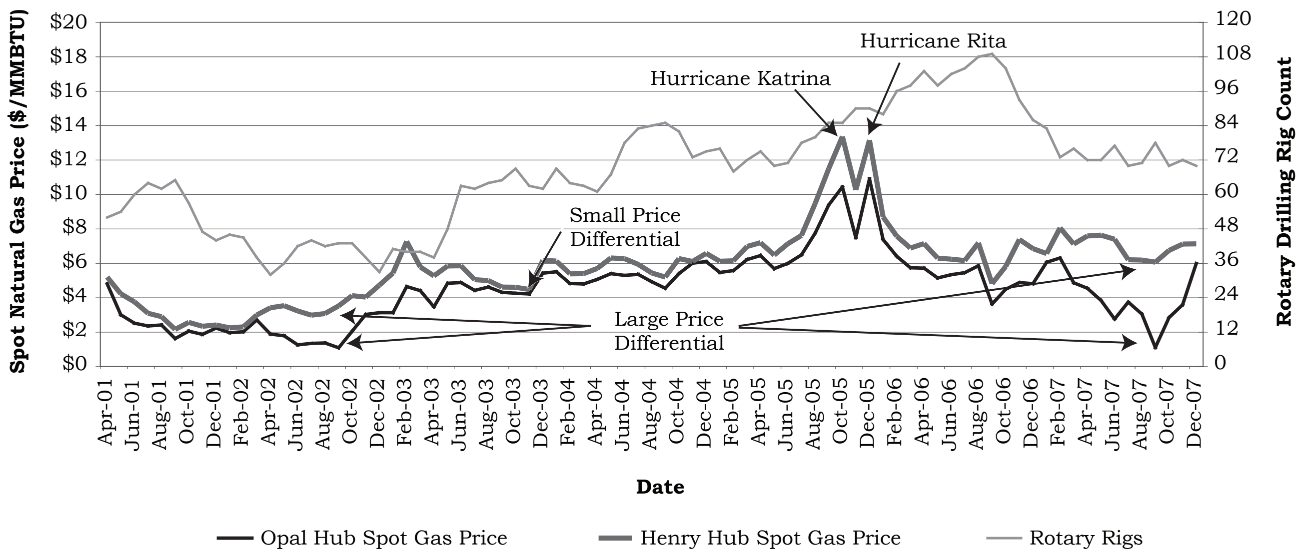
Source: Rextag Strategies. (n.d.). *Rockies Express Pipeline System*. Retrieved January 24, 2008, from http://www.rextagstrategies.com/free-maps.php?register=1&info=1&cod=2&f_name=REXTAG-008-REX.zip&zip_cod=16

gas, Figure 2 (see page 5) illustrates gas price fluctuations and their effect on the number of rotary drilling rigs operating in the state. The two dark lines represent the production price to send natural gas to market from two locations, Opal, WY, and Henry Hub, LA. Industry experts regard Henry Hub as the benchmark for natural gas prices in the continental United States (Sabine Pipeline, LLC, 2008).

Figure 2 illustrates the volatility of natural gas prices during the last six years. The two large price spikes in 2005 were primarily due to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Considering those two events, we can see how the supply-demand balance affects prices. Note that the Opal price was less than the Henry Hub price for the entire time. We define *differential* as the difference in natural gas prices at the two hubs. When the differential is large, supply generally exceeds takeaway capacity; when the differential is small, they are roughly equal. In addition, the differential represents a potential cost to the state because of lost revenue. Depending on production levels, the state could experience a loss of millions of dollars per day when the differential is relatively large. This negatively affects funding for highways, schools, and other services the state provides to its citizens.

Natural gas prices directly influence the number of rotary drilling rigs operating in the state and, consequently, employment in the oil & gas industry (Wen, 2005). One interesting feature of the time series is that

Figure 2: Monthly Average Opal and Henry Hub Spot Natural Gas Prices and Wyoming Rotary Rig Counts



Rotary Rig Count data source: Baker Hughes International, http://www.bakerhughes.com/investor/rig/index.htm. Price data source: Intercontinental Exchange. (2008). *Natural gas index historical search.* Retrieved January 10, 2008, from https://www.theice.com/marketdata/naNaturalGas/naNatGasHistory.jsp. Data used by permission from Ed Fraim – Director, ICE Data.

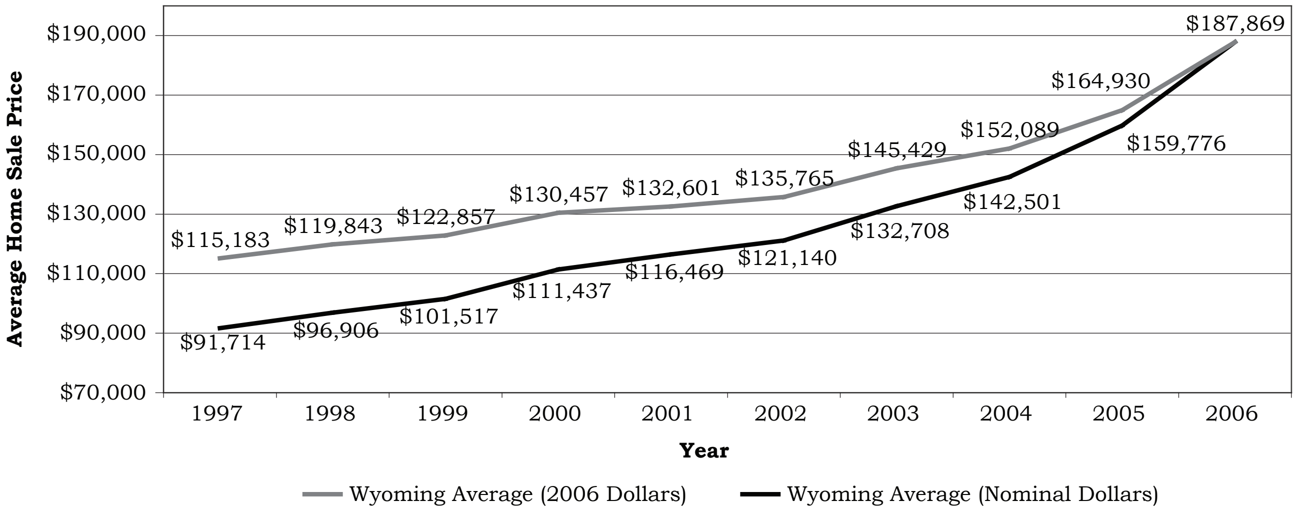
changes in the number of rigs tend to lag changes in gas prices. This illustrates how quickly production companies respond to price changes. Although the statewide rotary rig count is currently 30% less than its 2006 peak, the level of drilling activity is nearly equal to 2005 levels.

Housing Prices and Availability

Figure 3 (see page 6) shows the statewide annual average sales price for single-family homes in Wyoming from 1997 to 2006 (Wyoming Housing Database Partnership [WHDP], 2007). The lower line represents the actual price paid by home buyers and the top line represents the inflation-adjusted purchase price. The inflation-adjusted purchase price shows how much more purchasing power is required to buy a single-family home each year. Prices were adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008). Although housing prices increased steadily in real and nominal terms from 1997-2002 (7.7% average annual increase), the current economic expansion accelerated prices from 2002-2006 (11.5% average annual increase). Rapid increases in home prices can place additional strain on first-time buyers and those with comparatively lower incomes. Furthermore, people moving to the state may have difficulty finding affordable housing. Lastly, persons on fixed incomes may not be able to keep their homes because property tax assessments rise as home values increase.

If home prices become unaffordable, particularly for new residents, the demand for rental housing may also increase. Figure 4 (see page 6) shows the estimated number of prospective renters on waiting lists in 2007 (WHDP, 2007). The WHDP estimated that 5,345 potential renters were on waiting lists statewide in 2007, with nearly 28% of the total in Natrona

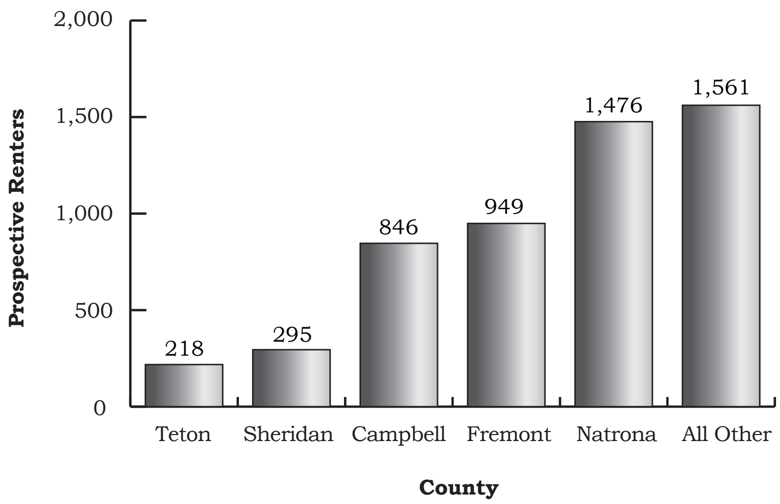
Figure 3: Wyoming Average Housing Prices, 1997-2006



Source: Wyoming Housing Database Partnership. (2007, August). *A profile of Wyoming: Demographics, economics and housing, Volume 1*. (Table I.20). Retrieved January 17, 2008, from http://www.wyomingcda.com/files/Profile07a_Vol_I_Final.pdf

County alone. Given the demand from renters and home buyers, it is becoming increasingly difficult for those new to the market to find housing. If workers are unable to find suitable housing, they may leave their jobs and return to their states of origin, thereby exacerbating the current labor shortage.

Figure 4: Wyoming Rental Waitlist Size by County, 2007



Source: Wyoming Housing Database Partnership. (2007, August). *A profile of Wyoming: Demographics, economics and housing, Volume 1*. (Table I.25). Retrieved January 17, 2008, from http://www.wyomingcda.com/files/Profile07a_Vol_I_Final.pdf

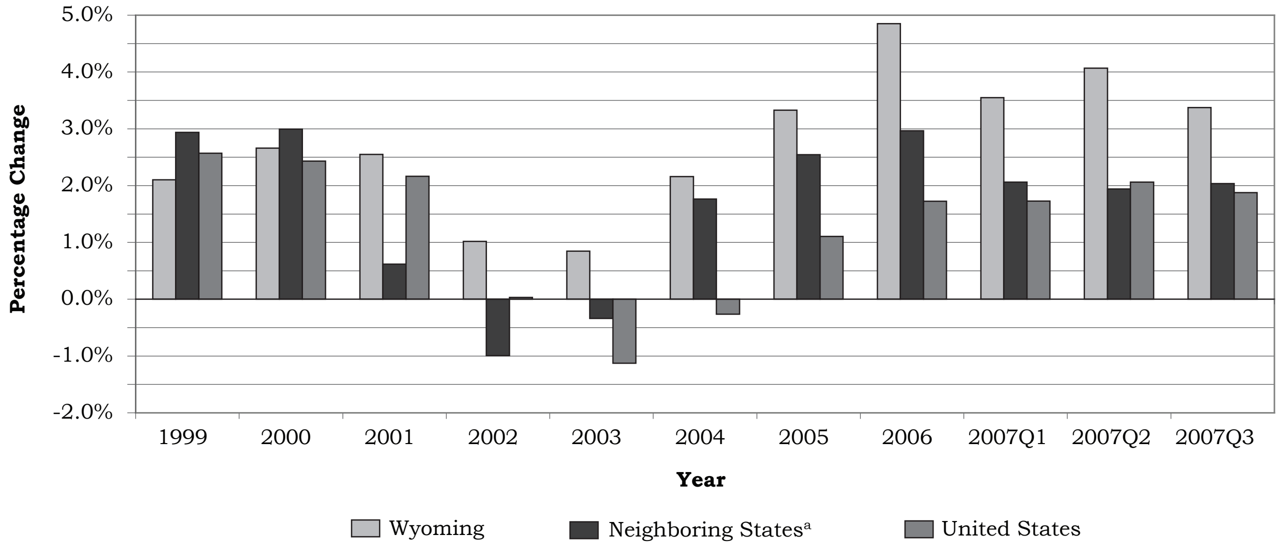
Two groups benefiting from the price increases are existing homeowners and rental property owners. Increasing prices have allowed existing homeowners to acquire newer homes, remodel using home equity lines of credit, or refinance at lower interest rates. Increasing rents have raised the investment returns and profits from rental properties, spurring the construction of multiunit housing complexes. The results are gains in construction employment and revenues to construction supply providers.

Regional Labor Competition

Wyoming's resident labor supply is finite. At some point, the supply of locally available labor needed to fill new jobs will be exhausted. New residents or nonresident workers must then be recruited. Neighboring states theoretically can provide such labor if their economies and employment growth remain weak relative to Wyoming's. However, when all regional economies expand, including those of neighboring states, filling new jobs in Wyoming becomes more difficult.

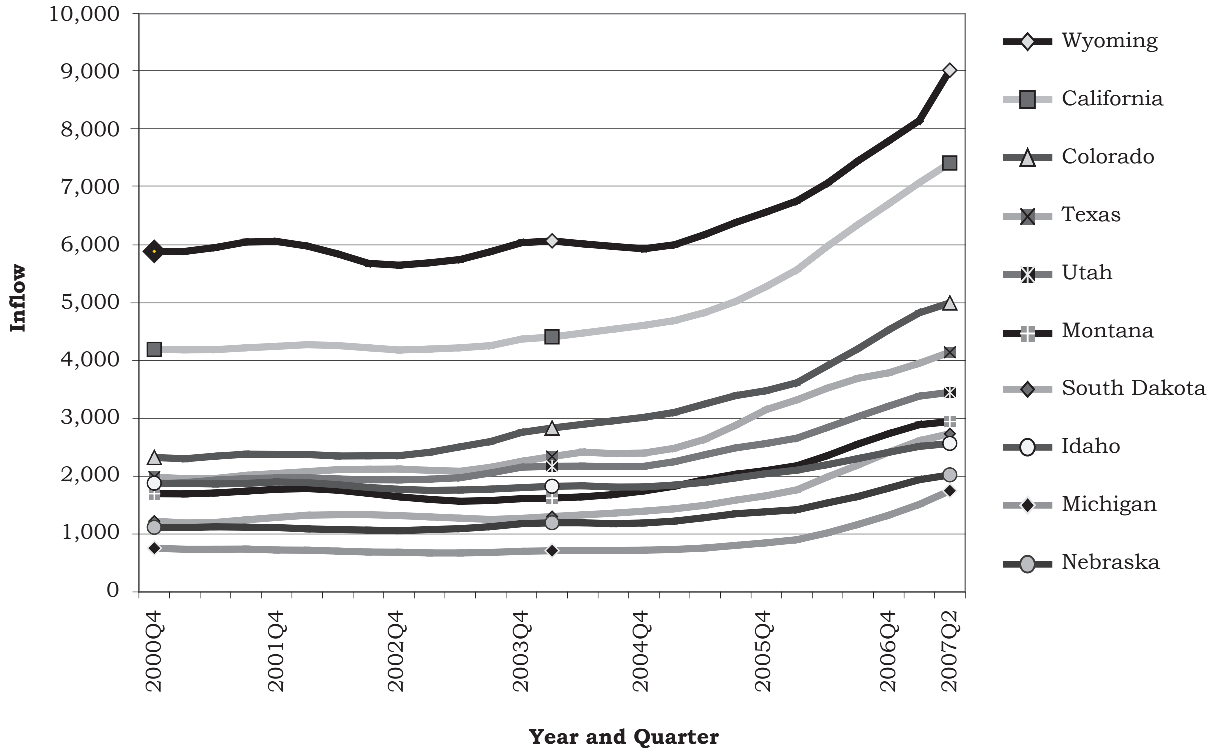
Figure 5 compares annual employment growth rates for the United States, Wyoming, and surrounding states (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007a). Wyoming growth rates generally lagged those of the rest of the region until the early part of the decade. At the end of the dot-com boom (in 2000), the environment changed. Since then, Wyoming's growth has greatly exceeded that of surrounding states. However, as the economies of those states began to recover in 2004, regional competition for labor increased. Because of the improving regional economy, Wyoming employers likely had greater difficulty filling positions in 2006 than in 2001 compared to employers in other states (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007a). Wyoming's dependence on nonresident labor is illustrated in Figure 6 (see page 8). As the state's economy expanded more rapidly in 2005 than in 2002, the number of people working here without Wyoming-issued driver's licenses increased. Although people born in Wyoming and returning to the state comprised the largest proportion of this group, a substantial number of native Californians and Coloradans worked here as well. Should the state's economy suffer because of decreased energy demand, these workers would likely be the first to leave.

Figure 5: Over-the-Year Employment Change for Wyoming, Neighboring States, and the United States, 1999-Third Quarter 2007 (2007Q3)



[a]Neighboring states include Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah.
Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figure 6: Top 10 State of Origin Inflows to Wyoming for Workers Without Wyoming Driver's Licenses, Four-Quarter Moving Averages



Source: Leonard, D. (2007). *Top state of origin inflows to Wyoming for workers without Wyoming driver's licenses.* Retrieved January 25, 2008, from http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/county/Statewide.pdf

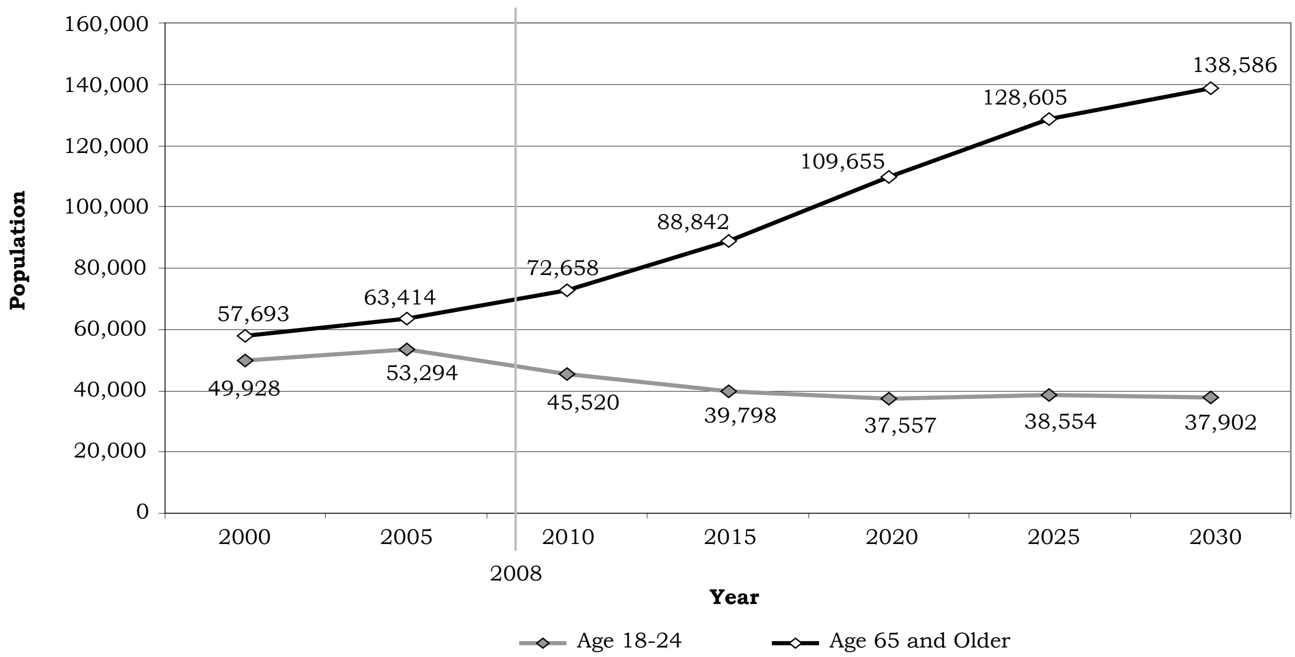
The U.S. economy may enter a recession in the near future (al-Khalidi, 2008). As a result, declining energy consumption may negatively affect Wyoming's economy. Although this may relieve some of the pressure on the labor market, decreased energy demand could reduce employment and state revenues, depending on the severity and duration of a decline.

Health Care Services Affordability and Availability

Wyoming's population is aging rapidly. To provide an example regarding how this is likely to play out in the labor market, we examine the outlook for registered nurses (RNs). As Figure 7 (see page 9) shows, the proportion of Wyoming's population age 65 and older will more than double between 2005 and 2030. This change poses challenges for the state's health care delivery system as well as the labor market. As people age the frequency of need for health care increases, as do the severity and length of treatment (Bennett & Flaherty-Robb, 2003). With large numbers of health care professionals at or near retirement age, the integrity of the health care delivery system may be in jeopardy.

We predict a substantial gap between the projected supply and projected demand for RNs statewide. Figure 8 (see page 10) compares the projected number of RNs

Figure 7: Projected Population Growth for Wyoming, 2000-2030



Data source: Census Bureau, United States Department of Commerce. (2005). *Interim projections of the population by selected age groups for the United States and states: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2030.* Retrieved October 11, 2007, from http://www.census.gov/population/projections/SummaryTabB1.xls

needed (Leonard, 2008) and the projected number of RNs supplied by Wyoming's postsecondary educational institutions through 2014. The estimates assume that all nursing program completers remain in the state from 2006-2014 and remain employed as nurses during the entire period.

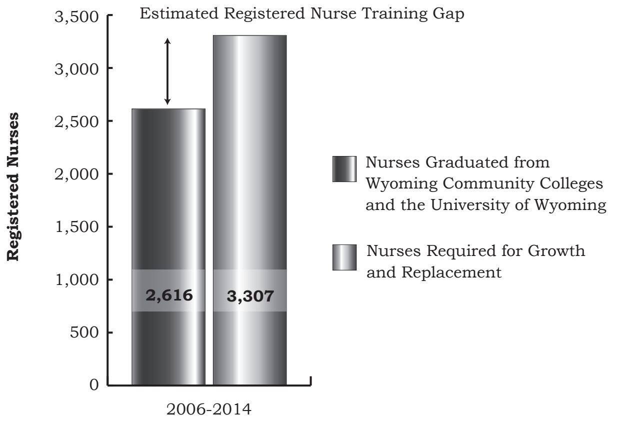
If these assumptions hold true, in 2014 Wyoming will need 636 more RNs than the state's education system can supply in its current form. To fill these gaps, RNs will need to be recruited either for permanent relocation to Wyoming or from traveling nurse agencies. The diminished availability of RNs reduces the amount of time they can spend with each patient, which may negatively influence the level of care given. In addition, health care costs may increase more rapidly due to wage inflation. Generally, labor shortages drive up wages to attract workers into certain occupations – in this case, nursing. When health care firms increase wages to attract or retain staff, their costs increase. Most likely, these costs will be passed on to health care consumers.

Given this scenario, it appears that both the state's health care training system and the state's health care delivery system are insufficiently prepared for the future. For further details, see Research & Planning's reports to the Wyoming Healthcare Commission on nursing demand, retention, and supply (Research & Planning, 2008).

Conclusion

Wyoming's current economic expansion presents policymakers with opportunities and challenges. The balance between gas production and export capacity in coming

Figure 8: Comparison of the Number of Nurses Graduated from Wyoming Community Colleges and the University of Wyoming with the Estimated Number of Nurses Required to Meet Growth and Replacement Needs, 2006-2014



Data sources: Wyoming State Board of Nursing license files, National Center for Education Statistics, and Wyoming Wage Records database.

years will likely affect whether Wyoming's economic expansion continues. Additionally, housing prices and the relative strength of neighboring states' economies will affect in-migration. Some challenges, such as pipeline export capacity, will be addressed by private infrastructure investments. Other issues, such as health care quality, affordability, and availability, may require policy changes to avert future system breakdowns.

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Coming Soon: 2008 Employer Seminars

Running a business can be a daunting task. Fortunately, there is help for employers. The Wyoming Department of Employment is sponsoring the 2008 Employer Seminars, coming to a town near you. The seminars provide information about workers' compensation, the state mine inspector's office, unemployment insurance, workplace safety, labor standards, and labor market information. Upcoming seminars are scheduled for Rock Springs (August 19), Gillette (September 24), and Cheyenne (December 3).

Ask an Economist

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor, and David Bullard, Senior Economist

Q From December 2007 to January 2008, the state's unemployment rate fell, and yet at the same time we lost 6,500 jobs. Don't these two statements contradict each other?

A Several factors explain why the unemployment rate could fall even while the number of jobs declines. First, we need to understand what these numbers represent. The unemployment rate comes from Research & Planning's (R&P) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, which is funded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). LAUS is used to estimate persons in the labor force by place of residence and is seasonally adjusted (Azar, 2008). Seasonal adjustment removes from data the effects of recurring events that follow a more-or-less regular pattern. This makes it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in a data series.

The number of jobs in the state is estimated by R&P's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, also funded by BLS. CES is used to survey employers on a monthly basis and estimates the number of jobs by place of work. This number is not seasonally adjusted and may include multiple jobs worked by the same individual.

Now we can take a closer look at the numbers. There are three main explanations for an apparent inconsistency between the unemployment rate and the number of jobs:

1. Seasonality: The nonseasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2008 (3.8%) was higher than the nonseasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2007 (3.5%), even though the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from December 2007 to January 2008 (see the Figure, page 13). Because CES estimates are not seasonally adjusted, the nonadjusted unemployment rate may be a more reasonable comparator.

2. Multiple jobholding: CES estimates reflect a count of jobs, not workers; therefore, some of the job loss in January may have been the result of a decline in multiple jobholding. Research has shown that as wages rise, the number of multiple jobholders declines (Knapp, 2007). As long as a person still holds at least one job, he or she is not counted as unemployed.

3. Labor force decline: The number of people in Wyoming's labor force decreased by 1,244 individuals between December 2007 and January 2008. BLS uses a fairly strict definition of unemployed. If the number of unemployed declines – because, for instance, individuals give up on finding a job, enroll in school full-time, or move to another state – both the number of unemployed and the labor force estimate are affected. Additionally, new entrants or re-entrants to the labor force affect both the unemployment rate and the labor force estimate.

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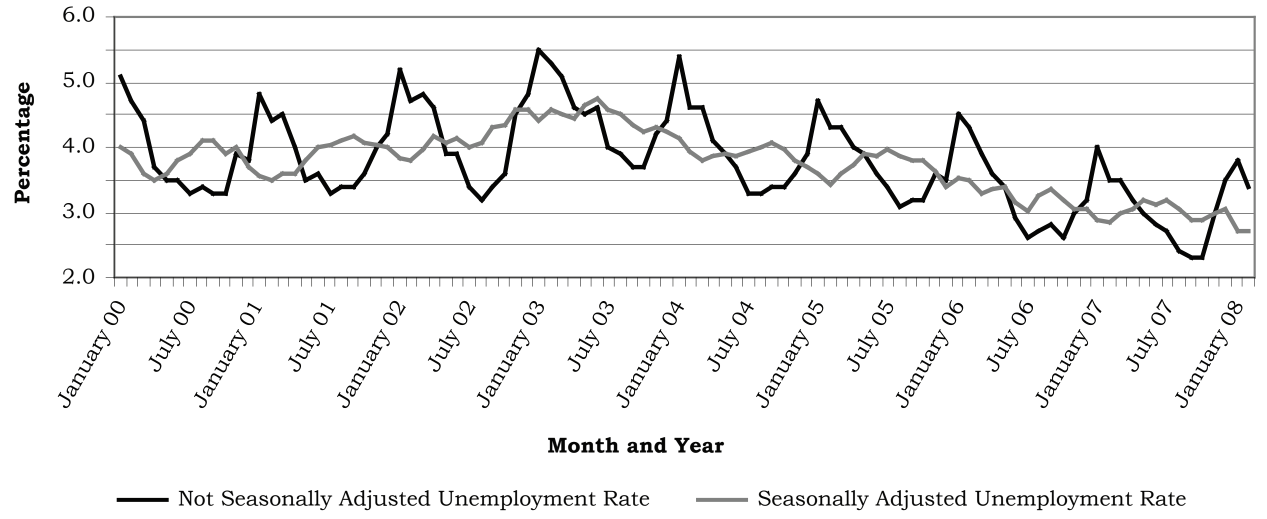
To submit a question to "Ask an Economist," please e-mail April Szuch, aszuch@state.wy.us, or Phil Ellsworth, pellsw@state.wy.us.

Figure: Wyoming's Seasonally Adjusted and Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, January 2000 to February 2008



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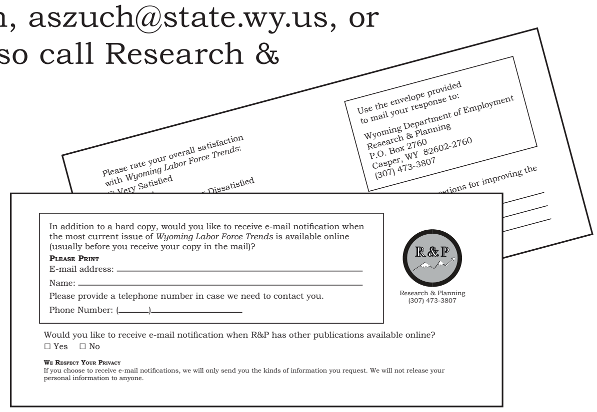
Did you recently receive a survey card from Research & Planning? We are compiling an e-mail list for electronic notification when *Trends* is available online, usually a week before you receive your printed copy in the mail. To be added to the e-mail list, contact April Szuch, aszuch@state.wy.us, or Phil Ellsworth, pellsw@state.wy.us. You can also call Research & Planning at (307) 473-3807.

Also let us know if you want to receive more or fewer copies of *Trends*, make name or address changes, or receive e-mail notification when other R&P publications are available online. Our website, http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI, has the current issue and back issues of *Trends*, information about our ongoing nursing study, Wyoming commuting patterns, news releases, statewide projections, copies of presentations, *Wyoming Career Explorer 2006-2007*, unemployment insurance data, county fact sheets, and more.



Understanding R&P's Function, Part III

by: April Szuch, Information Specialist

This is the final article in a three-part series (available in full at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/mission.pdf) detailing the purposes of a statistical agency.

Research & Planning (R&P) is an exclusively statistical entity with the purpose of compiling and analyzing data and making such information available to other government agencies, the public, businesses, and nongovernmental groups. R&P does not administer any worker training, insurance, or regulatory programs.

Credibility and Full Disclosure

Credibility is an essential attribute of any statistical entity. "A [state] statistical entity must have credibility based on a relationship of mutual trust with those who use its data and information" (Martin, Straf, & Citro, 2005). Those who obtain data from the entity must be able to rely on accuracy of the data and credibility of the entity. In addition, the entity must be free from political bias.

The entity also should be candid about the sources of its data and any limitations of that information. By disclosing research and analysis methods, the entity ensures that its audience will understand possible limitations of the data. With this knowledge, the public is able to make clear determinations about how to use the data.

R&P strives to list in detail the data sources used for analysis. In illustration, Dr. Mark A. Harris does so in the "Background and Methodology" section of "Need a Nurse? Examining Labor Sources for Health Care" in the December 2007 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/1207/a1.htm).

A statistical entity should broadly circulate its data in a timely manner to the widest possible audience. By describing the data in layman's terms, an entity fulfills its purpose of not only providing data, but also making it accessible to all users. R&P publishes monthly news releases of employment and industry data, as well as quarterly releases of payroll and employment news and other occasional updates (http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/releases.htm).

Independence

Maintaining independence is necessary for a statistical entity. This enhances credibility and allows the public, government officials, and others access to objective, unbiased information. Data providers will likely be more willing to share information with the knowledge that the entity will use it for statistical purposes and will not share confidential or individually identifiable data for administrative, regulatory, or law enforcement purposes (see 29 USC sec. 491-2 [a][2] at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/section309.htm). Administrative uses include wage records, tax audits, and license records. Administrative records can be used for statistical purposes, in conjunction with other research and data, but statistical data are not appropriate for administrative use.

Independence also means that the entity has authority over the circumstances regarding collection of data, means of analysis, and release to the public, as well as the ability to release data without clearance from another agency. For example, R&P sets its own time frame for sharing information by providing news release dates to the public (http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0108/a7.htm).

R&P is not restricted to gathering certain types of data or seeking specific results. Because a statistical entity should be independent, even from those persons or agencies with which it shares data, the entity is not obliged to produce anything but the most accurate, complete data.

Standards and Experience

Maintaining high-quality and professional standards is another responsibility of a statistical entity. This includes using up-to-date statistical theory, seeking to increase skills among staff members, and communicating statistical information in ways that are understandable to experts and nonexperts alike.

Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys

Statistics collected and published by the federal government constitute a significant portion of the available information about the United States economy, population, natural resources, environment, and public and private institutions. These data are used by the federal government and others as a basis for actions that affect people's lives and well-being. It is essential that they be collected, processed, and published in a manner that guarantees and inspires confidence in their reliability.

Source: Management and Budget Office. (2006, September 22). *Standards and guidelines for statistical surveys* (Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 184). Retrieved December 12, 2007, from http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-8044.pdf

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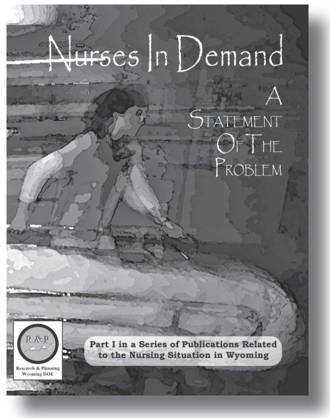
Part I of "Understanding R&P's Function" was printed in the February 2008 issue of* Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, and Part II was printed in the March 2008 issue. Both are available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends.htm. To request a printed copy, call R&P at (307) 473-3807.

Nurses in Demand: A Statement of the Problem Now Available Online



Research & Planning recently published *Nurses in Demand: A Statement of the Problem*, detailing the situation of nursing and health care in Wyoming. The report includes projections for future employment demand, demographic changes by county, and current employment and wages. Both a summary document and the full-length report are available in PDF format at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nursing.htm.

Wyoming Job Growth Moderates in March 2008

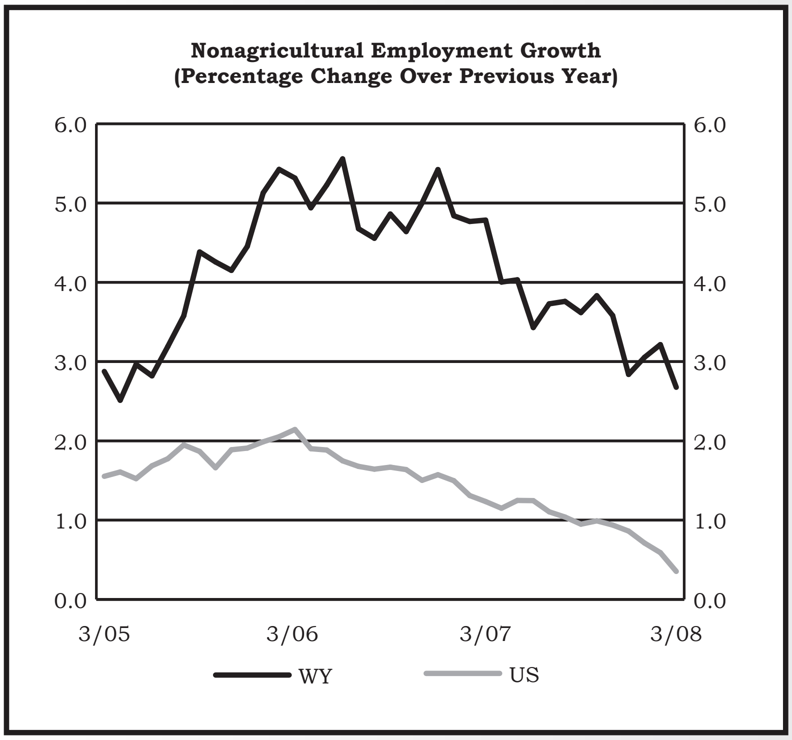
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

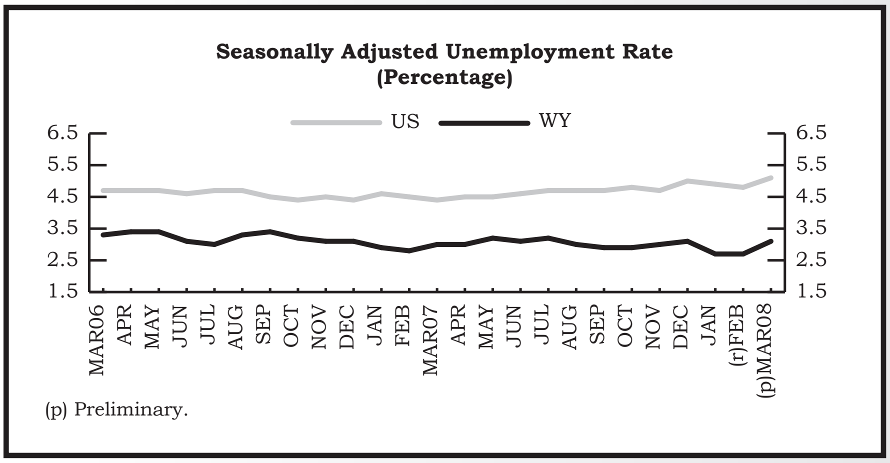
Wyoming job growth moderated somewhat, as the over-the-year growth rate slowed from 3.2% in February to 2.7% in March. Job growth peaked at 5.6% in June 2006 and has gradually declined since then. However, Wyoming's job growth rate has consistently ranked among the fastest of any state. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 2.7% in February to 3.1% in March (not a statistically significant increase), but remained well below the U.S. unemployment rate (5.1%).

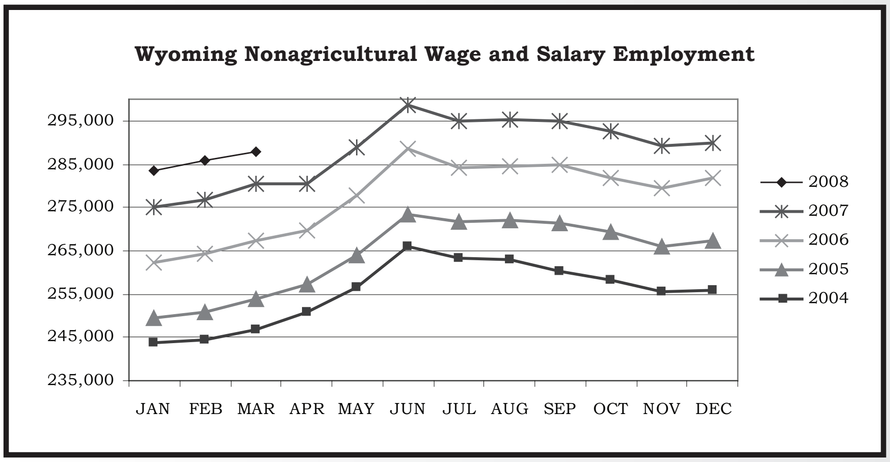
From February to March, Wyoming gained 2,000 jobs (0.7%). This is slightly less than the normal seasonal increase (2,800 jobs). Seasonal job gains were seen in construction (600 jobs, or 2.5%), retail trade (300 jobs, or 1.0%), professional & business services (500 jobs, or 2.8%), and government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; 700 jobs, or 1.0%).

Over the year Wyoming added 7,500 jobs (2.7%). Employment increased in almost all sectors. The fastest growth occurred in wholesale trade (600 jobs, or 7.0%); transportation, warehousing, & utilities (800 jobs, or 5.7%); and construction (1,300 jobs, or 5.5%). More moderate growth was seen in natural resources & mining (500 jobs, or 1.9%), retail trade (500 jobs, or 1.6%), professional & business services (600 jobs, or 3.4%), educational & health services (600 jobs, or 2.6%), leisure & hospitality (500 jobs, or 1.6%), and government (1,800 jobs, or 2.7%). Manufacturing employment fell slightly (-200 jobs, or -2.0%) and information employment was unchanged from a year earlier.

Unemployment rates increased in every county from February to March, but overall levels remained low. Only four counties posted rates of 5.0% or higher (Washakie, 5.8%; Big Horn and Niobrara, 5.4%; and Fremont, 5.0%). The lowest unemployment rates were found in Sublette (1.8%), Teton (2.5%), and Campbell (2.6%) counties.







State Unemployment Rates
March 2008
(Seasonally Adjusted)

State	**Unemp. Rate**
Puerto Rico	9.8
Michigan	7.2
Alaska	6.7
California	6.2
District of Columbia	6.2
Rhode Island	6.1
Mississippi	6.0
Nevada	5.8
Kentucky	5.7
Missouri	5.7
Ohio	5.7
Oregon	5.7
South Carolina	5.7
Tennessee	5.6
Illinois	5.5
Connecticut	5.3
Georgia	5.3
North Carolina	5.2
Indiana	5.1
United States	**5.1**
Maine	5.0
Arkansas	4.9
Florida	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
Washington	4.9
New Jersey	4.8
New York	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Minnesota	4.7
West Virginia	4.7
Vermont	4.6
Louisiana	4.5
Colorado	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
Texas	4.3
Alabama	4.1
Kansas	4.1
Arizona	4.0
New Hampshire	3.9
Delaware	3.8
New Mexico	3.7
Virginia	3.7
Maryland	3.6
Montana	3.6
Iowa	3.5
Utah	3.3
Hawaii	3.1
North Dakota	3.1
Oklahoma	3.1
Wyoming	**3.1**
Idaho	3.0
Nebraska	2.9
South Dakota	2.5

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Over the year Wyoming added 7,500 jobs (2.7%). Employment increased in almost all major sectors.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands Mar08(p)	Feb08(r)	Mar07	Percent Change Total Employment Feb08 Mar08	Mar07 Mar08
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**287.8**	**285.8**	**280.3**	**0.7**	**2.7**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**218.6**	**217.3**	**212.9**	**0.6**	**2.7**
GOODS PRODUCING	**62.2**	**61.8**	**60.6**	**0.6**	**2.6**
Natural Resources & Mining	27.3	27.4	26.8	-0.4	1.9
Mining	27.2	27.3	26.8	-0.4	1.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.5	4.5	4.2	0.0	7.1
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.3	9.3	8.9	0.0	4.5
Coal Mining	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9
Support Activities for Mining	13.4	13.5	13.7	-0.7	-2.2
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	10.2	10.1	10.1	1.0	1.0
Construction	24.9	24.3	23.6	2.5	5.5
Construction of Buildings	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	8.4	8.3	7.7	1.2	9.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.0	11.5	11.4	4.3	5.3
Manufacturing	10.0	10.1	10.2	-1.0	-2.0
Durable Goods	5.4	5.4	5.6	0.0	-3.6
Non-Durable Goods	4.6	4.7	4.6	-2.1	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**225.6**	**224.0**	**219.7**	**0.7**	**2.7**
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	55.7	55.3	53.8	0.7	3.5
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.1	8.6	1.1	7.0
Merchant Whlslrs., Durable	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8
Retail Trade	31.7	31.4	31.2	1.0	1.6
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	2.2
Food & Beverage Stores	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6
Gasoline Stations	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	6.6	6.5	6.4	1.5	3.1
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	14.8	14.8	14.0	0.0	5.7
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Transportation & Warehousing	12.3	12.3	11.6	0.0	6.0
Truck Transportation	4.4	4.3	4.2	2.3	4.8
Information	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0
Financial Activities	11.5	11.5	11.1	0.0	3.6
Finance & Insurance	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.5	4.5	4.2	0.0	7.1
Professional & Business Services	18.1	17.6	17.5	2.8	3.4
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	9.7	9.7	9.4	0.0	3.2
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.0	7.7
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.9	0.8	0.8	12.5	12.5
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.5	7.1	7.3	5.6	2.7
Educational & Health Services	23.6	23.8	23.0	-0.8	2.6
Educational Services	2.2	2.3	2.3	-4.3	-4.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	21.4	21.5	20.7	-0.5	3.4
Ambulatory Health Care	8.1	8.1	7.8	0.0	3.8
Offices of Physicians	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2
Hospitals	3.0	3.1	2.9	-3.2	3.4
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-2.2
Social Assistance	5.9	5.9	5.5	0.0	7.3
Leisure & Hospitality	31.8	31.6	31.3	0.6	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Accommodation & Food Services	29.3	29.1	28.9	0.7	1.4
Accommodation	10.3	10.4	10.3	-1.0	0.0
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	19.0	18.7	18.6	1.6	2.2
Other Services	11.7	11.8	11.6	-0.8	0.9
Repair & Maintenance	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**69.2**	**68.5**	**67.4**	**1.0**	**2.7**
Federal Government	6.8	6.7	6.8	1.5	0.0
State Government	16.0	15.9	15.6	0.6	2.6
State Govt. Education	6.7	6.6	6.5	1.5	3.1
Local Government	46.4	45.9	45.0	1.1	3.1
Local Govt. Education	24.3	24.4	23.9	-0.4	1.7
Hospitals	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands Mar08(p)	Feb08(r)	Mar07	Percent Change Total Employment Feb08 Mar08	Mar07 Mar08
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**44.4**	**44.1**	**43.2**	**0.7**	**2.8**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**31.0**	**30.6**	**30.0**	**1.3**	**3.3**
GOODS PRODUCING	**4.5**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**2.3**	**4.7**
Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.6	7.4
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**39.9**	**39.7**	**38.9**	**0.5**	**2.6**
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.9	9.9	9.5	0.0	4.2
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.1	0.0	9.7
Information	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.0
Educational & Health Services	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6
Leisure & Hospitality	4.5	4.4	4.4	2.3	2.3
Other Services	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.2	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**13.4**	**13.5**	**13.2**	**-0.7**	**1.5**
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
State Government	4.0	4.1	4.0	-2.4	0.0
Local Government	6.9	6.9	6.8	0.0	1.5
Local Education	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8

NATRONA COUNTY
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
TOTAL PRIVATE
GOODS PRODUCING
Natural Resources & Mining
Construction
Manufacturing
SERVICE PROVIDING
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities
Wholesale Trade
Retail Trade
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.
Information
Financial Activities
Professional & Business Services
Educational & Health Services
Leisure & Hospitality
Other Services
TOTAL GOVERNMENT
Federal Government
State Government
Local Government
Local Education

Federal Funding Cuts Lead to Discontinuation of MSA Employment Statistics

Effective with the release of January 2008 data on March 11, 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) discontinued publication of all nonfarm employment series for 65 small metropolitan areas. In Wyoming, this funding cut affects the Casper metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and Natrona County. These cutbacks are due to a reduction in BLS funding from the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act enacted on December 26, 2007. For more details, see http://www.bls.gov/sae/msareductions.htm.

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

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(Continued)

CAMPBELL COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Mar08	Feb08	Mar07	Feb08 Mar08	Mar07 Mar08
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**27.9**	**27.8**	**27.4**	**0.4**	**1.8**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**23.8**	**23.7**	**23.4**	**0.4**	**1.7**
GOODS PRODUCING	**11.7**	**11.7**	**11.6**	**0.0**	**0.9**
Natural Resources & Mining	7.8	7.8	7.5	0.0	4.0
Construction	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**16.2**	**16.1**	**15.8**	**0.6**	**2.5**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	1.9
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	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Other Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**4.1**	**4.1**	**4.0**	**0.0**	**2.5**
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**25.1**	**24.8**	**25.3**	**1.2**	**-0.8**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**20.7**	**20.5**	**20.9**	**1.0**	**-1.0**
GOODS PRODUCING	**8.4**	**8.4**	**9.0**	**0.0**	**-6.7**
Natural Resources & Mining	5.4	5.4	5.6	0.0	-3.6
Construction	1.7	1.7	2.1	0.0	-19.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**16.7**	**16.4**	**16.3**	**1.8**	**2.5**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.3	5.3	5.1	0.0	3.9
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.5	1.4	1.3	7.1	15.4
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	4.2
Other Services	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**4.4**	**4.3**	**4.4**	**2.3**	**0.0**
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	**17.4**	**17.3**	**17.2**	**0.6**	**1.2**
TOTAL PRIVATE	**15.2**	**15.1**	**15.0**	**0.7**	**1.3**
GOODS PRODUCING	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.4**	**4.5**	**-4.2**
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.2	2.1	2.3	4.8	-4.3
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	**15.1**	**15.1**	**14.8**	**0.0**	**2.0**
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Bus. Services	1.7	1.7	1.5	0.0	13.3
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.3	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**

State Unemployment Rates March 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.2
Michigan	7.9
Alaska	7.4
Rhode Island	6.7
California	6.4
District of Columbia	6.4
Oregon	6.3
Kentucky	6.1
Missouri	6.1
Ohio	6.1
Mississippi	5.9
Tennessee	5.9
Maine	5.8
Nevada	5.8
Illinois	5.7
Indiana	5.6
Wisconsin	5.6
Connecticut	5.5
South Carolina	5.5
Minnesota	5.4
West Virginia	5.4
Georgia	5.3
Pennsylvania	5.3
Vermont	5.3
Washington	5.3
North Carolina	5.2
United States	**5.2**
New Jersey	5.1
New York	5.1
Arkansas	5.0
Massachusetts	4.8
Colorado	4.7
Florida	4.7
Kansas	4.4
Montana	4.4
Louisiana	4.3
New Hampshire	4.3
Texas	4.2
Alabama	4.1
Delaware	4.0
North Dakota	4.0
Arizona	3.9
Iowa	3.9
Virginia	3.9
Idaho	3.8
Wyoming	**3.8**
Maryland	3.7
New Mexico	3.7
Utah	3.5
Nebraska	3.2
Oklahoma	3.2
Hawaii	3.0
South Dakota	3.0

Economic Indicators

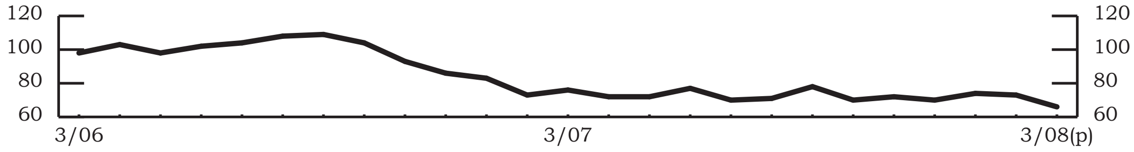
by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The average weekly benefit payment for Wyoming Unemployment Insurance increased by 10.4% from March 2007 to March 2008.

	Mar 2008 (p)	Feb 2008 (r)	Mar 2007 (b)	Percent Change Month	Percent Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	291,080	287,890	285,569	1.1	1.9
Unemployed	10,925	9,722	9,980	12.4	9.5
Employed	280,155	278,168	275,589	0.7	1.7
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.8%/3.1%	3.4%/2.7%	3.5%/3.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.2%/5.1%	5.2%/4.8%	4.5%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,499,000	7,610,000	7,808,000	-1.5	-4.0
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.3%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	401,000	396,000	381,000	1.3	5.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	5,038,000	5,114,000	4,384,000	-1.5	14.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	Data not available; see box on page 18.				
Average Weekly Hours					
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$1,046.50	$1,017.38	$977.37	2.9	7.1
Average Weekly Hours	46.0	45.5	45.8	1.1	0.4
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	Data not available; see box on page 18.				
Average Weekly Hours					
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	$724.30	$714.29	$702.40	1.4	3.1
Average Weekly Hours	41.2	40.7	41.1	1.2	0.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	14,699	16,649	13,000	-11.7	13.1
Benefits Paid	$4,422,105	$4,980,501	$3,543,190	-11.2	24.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$300.84	$299.15	$272.55	0.6	10.4
State Insured Covered Jobs	266,719	263,781	257,771	1.1	3.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Items	213.5	211.7	205.4	0.9	4.0
Food & Beverages	209.7	209.5	200.9	0.1	4.4
Housing	214.4	213.0	208.1	0.6	3.0
Apparel	120.9	117.8	122.6	2.6	-1.4
Transportation	195.2	190.5	180.3	2.5	8.2
Medical Care	363.0	362.2	347.2	0.2	4.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)	112.7	112.4	111.2	0.3	1.3
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)	121.8	121.8	118.2	0.1	3.0
Other Goods & Services	341.8	340.2	331.1	0.5	3.2
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities	188.1	182.4	169.3	3.1	11.1
Wyoming Building Permits					
(New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	193	118	315	63.6	-38.7
Valuation	$62,444,000	$35,344,000	$66,132,000	76.7	-5.6
Single Family Homes	176	101	263	74.3	-33.1
Valuation	$60,531,000	$33,324,000	$59,860,000	81.6	1.1
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	66	73	76	-9.6	-13.2

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

Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming



(p) Preliminary.

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Only four counties posted unemployment rates of 5.0% or higher (Washakie, 5.8%; Big Horn and Niobrara, 5.4%; and Fremont, 5.0%) in March 2008.

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
REGION County	Mar 2008 (p)	Feb 2008 (r)	Mar 2007 (b)	Mar 2008 (p)	Feb 2008 (r)	Mar 2007 (b)	Mar 2008 (p)	Feb 2008 (r)	Mar 2007 (b)	Mar 2008 (p)	Feb 2008 (r)	Mar 2007 (b)
NORTHWEST	**43,712**	**43,011**	**42,427**	**41,502**	**41,031**	**40,450**	**2,210**	**1,980**	**1,977**	**5.1**	**4.6**	**4.7**
Big Horn	4,899	4,837	4,732	4,633	4,593	4,466	266	244	266	5.4	5.0	5.6
Fremont	18,368	18,111	17,925	17,441	17,232	17,087	927	879	838	5.0	4.9	4.7
Hot Springs	2,335	2,278	2,361	2,224	2,182	2,258	111	96	103	4.8	4.2	4.4
Park	13,795	13,525	13,255	13,139	12,953	12,680	656	572	575	4.8	4.2	4.3
Washakie	4,315	4,260	4,154	4,065	4,071	3,959	250	189	195	5.8	4.4	4.7
NORTHEAST	**53,004**	**52,433**	**51,905**	**51,246**	**50,954**	**50,274**	**1,758**	**1,479**	**1,631**	**3.3**	**2.8**	**3.1**
Campbell	26,535	26,467	25,908	25,848	25,904	25,278	687	563	630	2.6	2.1	2.4
Crook	3,431	3,343	3,395	3,282	3,222	3,275	149	121	120	4.3	3.6	3.5
Johnson	3,976	3,859	3,786	3,793	3,713	3,630	183	146	156	4.6	3.8	4.1
Sheridan	15,910	15,654	15,617	15,295	15,121	15,014	615	533	603	3.9	3.4	3.9
Weston	3,152	3,110	3,199	3,028	2,994	3,077	124	116	122	3.9	3.7	3.8
SOUTHWEST	**64,878**	**64,503**	**63,525**	**62,911**	**62,765**	**61,736**	**1,967**	**1,738**	**1,789**	**3.0**	**2.7**	**2.8**
Lincoln	9,066	8,998	8,399	8,703	8,687	8,100	363	311	299	4.0	3.5	3.6
Sublette	6,879	6,771	6,459	6,753	6,661	6,350	126	110	109	1.8	1.6	1.7
Sweetwater	23,840	23,747	24,015	23,145	23,135	23,346	695	612	669	2.9	2.6	2.8
Teton	14,154	14,142	13,534	13,799	13,817	13,186	355	325	348	2.5	2.3	2.6
Uinta	10,939	10,845	11,118	10,511	10,465	10,754	428	380	364	3.9	3.5	3.3
SOUTHEAST	**73,323**	**72,442**	**72,414**	**70,292**	**69,688**	**69,570**	**3,031**	**2,754**	**2,844**	**4.1**	**3.8**	**3.9**
Albany	19,110	18,858	19,160	18,572	18,372	18,604	538	486	556	2.8	2.6	2.9
Goshen	6,012	5,918	6,010	5,728	5,648	5,800	284	270	210	4.7	4.6	3.5
Laramie	42,973	42,618	42,005	41,024	40,834	40,141	1,949	1,784	1,864	4.5	4.2	4.4
Niobrara	1,240	1,190	1,182	1,173	1,143	1,148	67	47	34	5.4	3.9	2.9
Platte	3,988	3,858	4,057	3,795	3,691	3,877	193	167	180	4.8	4.3	4.4
CENTRAL	**56,165**	**55,499**	**55,301**	**54,206**	**53,730**	**53,560**	**1,959**	**1,769**	**1,741**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.1**
Carbon	8,170	8,053	7,923	7,837	7,749	7,647	333	304	276	4.1	3.8	3.5
Converse	6,982	6,878	6,845	6,737	6,651	6,616	245	227	229	3.5	3.3	3.3
Natrona	41,013	40,568	40,533	39,632	39,330	39,297	1,381	1,238	1,236	3.4	3.1	3.0
STATEWIDE	**291,080**	**287,890**	**285,569**	**280,155**	**278,168**	**275,589**	**10,925**	**9,722**	**9,980**	**3.8**	**3.4**	**3.5**
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.1	2.7	3.0
U.S.										5.2	5.2	4.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										5.1	4.8	4.4

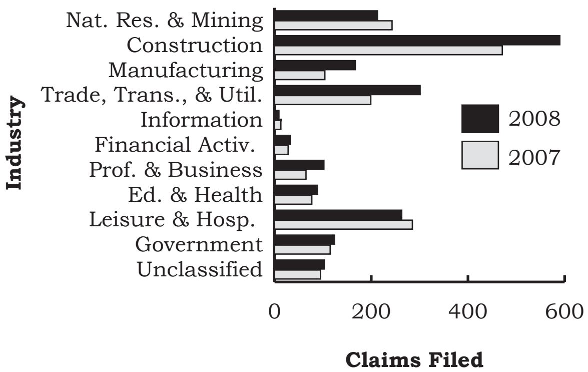
Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/08. Run date 04/08.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

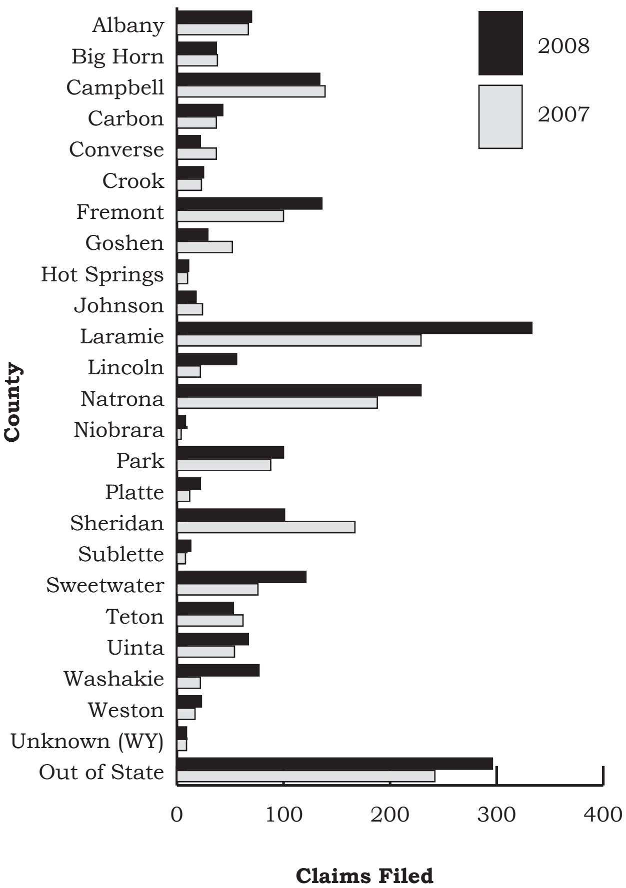
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

March initial claims were 5.7% greater than February 2008 and 17.9% greater than March 2007. March's total of 2,031 claims was in the upper half of the trend observed since 1998.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, March 2008



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, March 2008



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	**Mar08**	**Feb08**	**Mar07**	**Feb08 Mar08**	**Mar07 Mar08**
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**2,031**	**1,922**	**1,722**	**5.7**	**17.9**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	970	1,041	818	-6.8	18.6
Natural Resources & Mining	213	181	243	17.7	-12.3
Mining	195	164	227	18.9	-14.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	13	18	32	-27.8	-59.4
Construction	590	672	471	-12.2	25.3
Manufacturing	167	188	104	-11.2	60.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	834	642	694	29.9	20.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	301	263	199	14.4	51.3
Wholesale Trade	32	29	41	10.3	-22.0
Retail Trade	143	160	90	-10.6	58.9
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	126	74	68	70.3	85.3
Information	9	6	13	50.0	-30.8
Financial Activities	33	34	28	-2.9	17.9
Professional & Business Serv.	102	105	65	-2.9	56.9
Educational & Health Services	89	73	77	21.9	15.6
Leisure & Hospitality	263	113	285	132.7	-7.7
Other Services	37	48	27	-22.9	37.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	124	121	115	2.5	7.8
Federal Government	45	54	56	-16.7	-19.6
State Government	17	14	19	21.4	-10.5
Local Government	62	53	40	17.0	55.0
Local Education	17	13	10	30.8	70.0
UNCLASSIFIED	103	118	95	-12.7	8.4
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**332**	**293**	**226**	**13.3**	**46.9**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	115	144	87	-20.1	32.2
Construction	92	120	74	-23.3	24.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	181	120	113	50.8	60.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	108	45	32	140.0	237.5
Financial Activities	14	11	6	27.3	133.3
Professional & Business Serv.	21	22	20	-4.5	5.0
Educational & Health Services	15	16	19	-6.3	-21.1
Leisure & Hospitality	17	16	28	6.3	-39.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	25	21	13	19.0	92.3
UNCLASSIFIED	11	8	13	37.5	-15.4
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	**228**	**242**	**186**	**-5.8**	**22.6**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	115	135	104	-14.8	10.6
Construction	74	96	79	-22.9	-6.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	105	96	75	9.4	40.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	34	32	25	6.3	36.0
Financial Activities	8	2	5	300.0	60.0
Professional & Business Serv.	11	19	6	-42.1	83.3
Educational & Health Services	10	16	11	-37.5	-9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	28	16	22	75.0	27.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4	3	4	33.3	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	4	8	3	-50.0	33.3

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

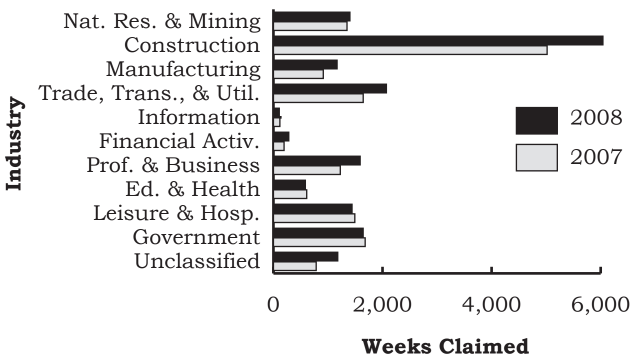
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Each month, the updated Unemployment Insurance statewide claims time series tables and charts are available on Research & Planning's website at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ui.htm.

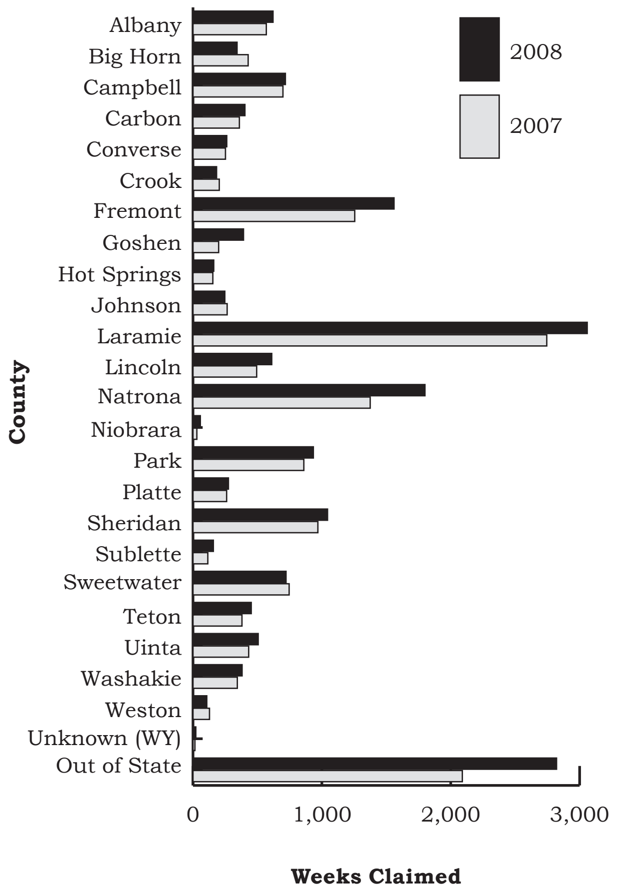
Continued Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	**Mar08**	**Feb08**	**Mar07**	**Feb08 Mar08**	**Mar07 Mar08**
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**17,834**	**19,742**	**15,366**	**-9.7**	**16.1**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**5,245**	**5,653**	**4,626**	**-7.2**	**13.4**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	8,610	9,735	7,281	-11.6	18.3
Natural Resources & Mining	1,402	1,289	1,349	8.8	3.9
Mining	1,213	1,098	1,206	10.5	0.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	105	100	154	5.0	-31.8
Construction	6,041	7,436	5,018	-18.8	20.4
Manufacturing	1,167	1,010	914	15.5	27.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	6,400	6,815	5,619	-6.1	13.9
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	2,071	2,156	1,646	-3.9	25.8
Wholesale Trade	249	257	277	-3.1	-10.1
Retail Trade	1,138	1,181	898	-3.6	26.7
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	684	718	471	-4.7	45.2
Information	107	108	118	-0.9	-9.3
Financial Activities	281	290	195	-3.1	44.1
Professional & Business Serv.	1,590	1,771	1,226	-10.2	29.7
Educational & Health Services	585	645	610	-9.3	-4.1
Leisure & Hospitality	1,441	1,528	1,492	-5.7	-3.4
Other Services	325	317	332	2.5	-2.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,645	1,905	1,682	-13.6	-2.2
Federal Government	774	963	839	-19.6	-7.7
State Government	219	206	229	6.3	-4.4
Local Government	652	736	614	-11.4	6.2
Local Education	123	127	92	-3.1	33.7
UNCLASSIFIED	1,179	1,287	784	-8.4	50.4
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**3,058**	**3,488**	**2,743**	**-12.3**	**11.5**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**907**	**1,012**	**810**	**-10.4**	**12.0**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,458	1,775	1,435	-17.9	1.6
Construction	1,250	1,518	1,302	-17.7	-4.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,283	1,353	1,026	-5.2	25.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	472	488	367	-3.3	28.6
Financial Activities	79	94	43	-16.0	83.7
Professional & Business Serv.	319	332	237	-3.9	34.6
Educational & Health Services	174	185	150	-5.9	16.0
Leisure & Hospitality	168	189	101	-11.1	66.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	212	221	209	-4.1	1.4
UNCLASSIFIED	105	139	73	-24.5	43.8
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	**1,798**	**2,196**	**1,373**	**-18.1**	**31.0**
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	**523**	**657**	**433**	**-20.4**	**20.8**
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	880	1,183	643	-25.6	36.9
Construction	628	963	404	-34.8	55.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	799	859	620	-7.0	28.9
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	252	275	203	-8.4	24.1
Financial Activities	57	72	10	-20.8	470.0
Professional & Business Serv.	234	272	146	-14.0	60.3
Educational & Health Services	66	90	106	-26.7	-37.7
Leisure & Hospitality	108	79	94	36.7	14.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	82	103	78	-20.4	5.1
UNCLASSIFIED	37	51	32	-27.5	15.6

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, March 2008



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, March 2008



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