

# The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2007

by: Valerie A. Davis, Senior Economist

This article summarizes the 2007 Wyoming Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses cases and compares them to previous years. The data include estimates of incidence rates and the nature, part of body, source, and event or exposure that caused the injury or illness. Also included are worker demographics and other characteristics of the occurrence (i.e., day of the week).

esearch & Planning (R&P) conducts the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for Wyoming in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The survey data identify the estimated incidence rates of injuries and illnesses at the industry level. Detailed characteristics of severe injuries and illnesses (those that result in days away from work) also are identified by the survey. This information can be used by employers and safety awareness groups to focus on prevention. The data are also used by regulatory agencies for tracking injury and illness trends to target safety resources. All italicized words or phrases are explained in the "Definitions" on page 3.

# **Background and Methodology**

For this survey, approximately 2,700 Wyoming private industry employers were notified in December 2006 to keep records of their firms' work-related injuries and illnesses during 2007. In January 2008, these same employers were sent a 12-page survey booklet to transfer the data from the OSHA 300 forms sent in 2006. Occupational injury and illness data for approximately 200 employers were added by two federal entities, the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Federal

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# HIGHLIGHTS

- Although workplace injuries cause an estimated 5,200 deaths and 4.3 million injuries annually, few studies have tapped into administrative databases to assess the economic effects on workers after they are injured. In March 2008, Research & Planning submitted a proposal to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to do that by using administrative data, wage records, workers' compensation data, and drivers' license data... page 13
- Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.9% in February to 4.5% in March, its highest level since August 2003. It remained well below the U.S. rate of 8.5%. ... page 20



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# Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Gary W. Child, Director

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Railroad Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Approximately 14% of the employers in the original sample either went out of business or were determined to be *out of scope*. Of the remaining employers in the sample, 95% responded to the survey.

Data were reported on the basis of unique incidents and employees. If an employee experienced more than one workrelated injury or illness during the year, each incident was reported separately. If an event injured more than one employee, each employee was reported on the survey.

BLS estimates incidence rates from the gathered data. Incidence rates by industry indicate the number of illnesses or injuries per 100 employees. National rates are also determined from standard surveys conducted throughout the country. Through the states' efforts, BLS gathers employer data including the number of days away from work an employee took for a work-related accident or illness. Cases with employees who are not out of work beyond the day of injury are not counted as incidents with days away from work, but these may be included in total recordable cases. BLS counts up to 180 days away from work per case. Another data element is the other recordable case, which indicates an injury or illness not requiring days away from work, days of job transfer, or restricted duty, but requiring medical treatment beyond first aid.

# **Incidence** Rates

In 2007 the overall private ownership estimated incidence rate in Wyoming was 4.6 injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time

# Definitions

ase of job transfer: An injured or ill employee was assigned to a job other than his or her regular job for part of the day other than the day of injury or illness.

*Case of restricted duty*: An employee was kept from performing one or more routine functions (work activities the employee performed at least once per week) of his or her job, or was kept from working a full workday, or a licensed health care professional recommended either of the above.

*Cases, other recordable*: Cases not involving days away from work or days of job transfer or restricted duty but requiring medical treatment beyond first aid. Other recordable cases include, for example, loss of consciousness, medical removal from job site, musculoskeletal disorders, or other significant diagnosed injury or illness.

*Cases with days away from work:* Severe cases that counted the day after the injury or onset of the illness, which may or may not include days of job transfer or restriction.

*Event or exposure*: The manner in which the injury or illness was produced or inflicted, such as falls, overexertion, or repetitive motion.

*Incidence rate*: Represents the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers, calculated as (N/ EH) x 200,000 where:

• N = number of injuries and illnesses

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- EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year
- 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year)

*Nature of injury or illness*: The physical characteristic of the disabling injury or illness, such as cuts, fractures, or sprains.

*Out of scope*: An employer who did not have employees for the survey year or an employer whose employment size class or industry code changed.

*Part of body*: The part of the body directly linked to the nature of injury or illness cited, such as back, finger, or eye.

Relative standard error (RSE): A percentage of the estimate. The standard error defines a range (confidence interval) around the estimate. The approximate 95% confidence interval is the estimate plus or minus twice the standard error.

Source of injury or illness: The object, substance, exposure, or bodily motion that directly caused the disabling condition, such as chemical, vehicle, or machinery.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies.

Figure 1: Major Industries with the Highest Estimated Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rates per 100 Full-Time Employees for Total Cases, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2007

employees. Three of the 10 subsectors with the highest estimated incidence rates nationally were also found in Wyoming's top 10 (see Figure 1 and Figure 2, page 5). The *relative standard error* published by BLS was used to calculate the estimates, with a 95% confidence interval. As indicated in Table 1 (see page 6), Wyoming employment in 2007 increased in a majority of industries, and the estimated incidence rates decreased. When comparing past survey results, employment in mining increased from 22,000 in 2005 to 27,300 in 2007, but the



Figure 2: Major Industries with the Highest Estimated Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rates per 100 Full-Time Employees for Total Cases, All United States, 2007

incidence rate decreased from 4.9 to 3.0. The incidence rate for transportation & warehousing was 6.2 in 2007, a decrease from the 2006 rate of 8.0 but higher than the 2005 rate of 4.5. From 2006 to 2007, food manufacturing, an industry subsector with one of the highest incidence rates, had a significant increase from 11.1 to 18.8.

The number of serious injury or illness cases has remained at 3,800 or below for the past five years, while the overall incidence rate has ranged from 4.6 to 6.0.

Health care & social assistance experienced increasing incidence rates from 2003 to 2007 (see Figure 3, page 8). However, at the industry subsector level, three of four subsectors had incidence rates that decreased in 2007. Over the reference period, as employment remained the same or increased in hospitals and nursing & residential care facilities, the incidence rate decreased. This may suggest a relationship between higher staffing levels and lower incidence rates in those subsectors.

# **Case and Demographic Data**

Table 2 (see page 9) shows the number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected characteristics for Wyoming from 2003 to 2007. An estimated 3,420 occupational injuries and illnesses (only those with days away from work, not including injuries or illnesses that resulted solely in job transfers or restricted duties or those that were other recordable cases) occurred in private industry in 2007, a 5.2% increase from 3,250 in 2006. Other data from this survey revealed that workrelated injuries and illnesses occurred most often on Thursdays, whereas for the previous several years they usually occurred on Wednesdays. In the last five

(Text continued on page 8)

# Table 1: Estimated Incidence Rates<sup>a</sup> of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Selected Industries and Employment<sup>c</sup> in Wyoming, Private Industry, 2005-2007

	200	05	200	06	200	)7
		Total		Total		Total
	Employment	Recordable	Employment	Recordable	Employment	Recordable
Industry <sup>b</sup>	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases
Private Industry <sup>a</sup>	191.0	5.8	202.6	4.8	213.9	4.6
Goods Producing <sup>d</sup>	52.8	7.4	59.9	4.8	64.5	4.6
Natural Resources & Mining <sup>d,e</sup>	23.1	5.1	26.7	3.5	28.4	3.1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, &	1.1	11.0	1.1	7.7	1.1	6.1
Animal Draductiond	0.7	125	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.5
	0.7	15.5	0.7	9.2	0.7	o.5
Mining (Except Oil & Cac)	22.0	4.9	25.0	3.3 2.7	27.5	5.U 2.7
Coal Mining	7.0	5.2 1 7	6.J 5 7	2.7	9.0	2.7
Nonmotallic Minoral Mining &	4.9	1.7	5.7	1.0	0.2	1.0
Quarrying <sup>e</sup>	2.5	5.7	2.6	4.7	2.7	4.8
Sand, Gravel, Clay, & Ceramic &				5.0		
Refractory Minerals Mining &	-	-	0.7	5.8	0.7	5.4
Qualitying <sup>2</sup>						
	1.8	5.5	1.9	4.2	1.9	4.5
Support Activities for Mining	10.6	60	13.1	3.8	14.2	3.0
Drilling Oil & Gas Wells	2.8	11.7	3.7	5.1	3.6	3.5
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	2.0		5.7	5.1	5.0	5.5
Operations	7.4	4.2	9.0	3.4	10.2	2.8
Construction	20.1	7.5	23.1	6.1	25.8	5.1
Construction of Buildings	4.3	11.6	4.8	9.8	5.0	7.0
Nonresidential Building Construction	1.5	11.5	1.7	9.5	1.7	9.9
Highway, Street, & Bridge Construction	1.9	8.4	1.9	5.7	2.0	6.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.4	7.7	11.6	5.5	12.4	5.5
Building Equipment Contractors	3.9	10.6	4.3	6.1	4.8	8.4
Electrical Contractors	1.9	11.4	2.1	4.6	2.3	7.0
Plumbing, Heating, & Air-	_	_	19	75	21	10.2
Conditioning Contractors			1.5	7.5	2.1	10.2
Manufacturing	9.6	13.6	10.0	6.3	10.3	8.6
Food Manufacturing	-	-	0.7	11.1	0.7	18.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	0.8	16.3	0.9	15.5	0.9	10.5
Service Providing	138.2	5.0	142.7	4.8	149.4	4.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities'	47.6	5.4	49.4	5.7	51.5	5.5
Wholesale Trade	7.6	7.3	8.1	4.5	8.6	5.3
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	4.6	7.4	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.6
Machinery, Equipment, & Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	3.1	6.2	3.4	5.0	3.7	5.9
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2.6	5.9	2.7	4.6	2.9	5.3
Retail Trade	30.2	5.4	30.7	5.3	31.6	5.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	6.0	4.4	4.6	4.6	5.0
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	0.8	2.6	0.8	6.9	0.9	3.1
Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	2.5	6.0	2.7	9.6	2.9	8.0
Food & Beverage Stores	4.7	3.0	4.6	6.2	4.6	5.1

Table continued on next page

Table continued from previous page

	200	)5	200	)6	200	)7
		Total		Total		Total
	Employment	Recordable	Employment	Recordable	Employment	Recordable
Industry <sup>®</sup>	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases	(Thousands) <sup>c</sup>	Cases
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, & Music Stores	1.3	-	1.4	-	1.4	2.3
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	6.8	6.0	7.2	6.3	8.4
Transportation & Warehousing <sup>f</sup>	7.5	4.5	8.3	8.0	8.9	6.2
Rail Transportation <sup>f</sup>	-	2.5	-	2.9	-	3.0
Truck Transportation	3.6	2.7	3.9	7.2	4.2	6.4
Utilities	2.3	3.4	2.3	4.4	2.4	3.2
Electric Power Generation, Transmission, & Distribution	2.0	3.2	2.0	4.3	2.0	3.2
Information	4.3	1.7	4.2	2.7	4.1	2.6
Publishing Industries (Except Internet)	1.3	1.7	1.3	4.4	1.3	3.0
Newspaper, Periodical, Book, & Directory Publishers	-	1.7	-	4.4	-	3.0
Newspaper Publishers	1.1	2.0	1.1	4.1	1.1	3.1
Telecommunications	1.4	2.3	1.4	2.6	1.4	3.0
Professional & Business Services	15.6	3.9	16.7	2.4	18.3	2.3
Waste Management & Remediation Services	0.5	7.5	0.6	5.9	0.6	8.6
Educational & Health Services	21.0	6.4	21.4	6.3	22.3	6.4
Educational Services	1.3	8.5	1.4	4.6	1.5	3.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.7	6.3	20.0	6.4	20.8	6.6
Ambulatory Health Care Services	7.4	2.2	7.6	2.2	7.8	4.7
Hospitals	2.8	10.6	2.9	11.2	2.9	8.3
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	4.4	10.4	4.4	10.5	4.5	9.6
Social Assistance	5.2	5.9	5.2	6.0	5.6	5.4
Leisure & Hospitality	31.9	5.7	32.4	5.1	33.4	4.7
Accommodation & Food Services	29.2	5.9	29.6	5.2	30.3	4.6
Accommodation	10.9	7.6	11.3	7.7	11.4	6.7
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, & Similar Organizations	2.2	4.5	2.2	3.8	2.1	1.5

<sup>a</sup>Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers, calculated as (N/EH) x 200,000 where N = number of injuries and illnesses

EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year

200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year)

<sup>b</sup>North American Industry Classification System Manual, 2002 Edition.

<sup>c</sup>Employment is expressed as an annual average and is derived primarily from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>e</sup>Data for mining (sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System – United States, 2002) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil & gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates for other industries.

<sup>f</sup>Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Because of rounding, components may not add to totals. Dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies.



Figure 3: Estimated Incidence Rates of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in Health Care and Social Assistance, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2004-2007

(Text continued from page 5)

years, most cases resulted in 31 or more days away from work.

# **Worker Characteristics**

In 2007, men comprised 55.6% of Wyoming's workforce (BLS, 2008). Of the total work-related injuries and illnesses in 2007, 68.7% involved men. This contrasts with the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (CFOI) data showing that 89.6% of Wyoming fatalities in 2007 were men (CFOI, 2008). Far more men than women worked in occupations typically associated with higher-than-average injury and illness rates, such as construction & extraction (see Figure 4, page 10). This occupational group includes all other construction laborers and extraction workers, who most often work in the natural resources & mining industry (400 men and 20 women were injured or became ill on the job; see Figure 5, page 10). Trade,

transportation, & utilities had twice the number of men (650) than women (320) who suffered cases with days away from work. These workers included salespersons, truck drivers, and laborers. The percentage of Wyoming workers who were women was 44.8% in 2007 (BLS, 2008), but only 29.8% of workers who became injured or ill in 2007 were women. However, more women than men were injured in service occupations such as nursing aides and maids & housekeeping cleaners. More women than men were also hurt or became ill in educational & health services (320 and 50, respectively).

The highest percentage of injuries and illnesses by age group in 2007 was for workers age 25 to 34 (24.6%; see Figure 6, page 11). In contrast, the age groups with the most injuries and illnesses in 2006 were 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 (23.0% each). Since 2002, the survey has shown that the incidence rate for individuals age 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 has increased.

# Injury and Illness Characteristics

*injury or illness* was due to sprains and strains (46.5% in 2007; see Figure 7, page 11). Often the injuries were caused by falling, lifting, twisting and bending, standing or sitting, throwing, or reaching. In fact, sprains and strains were the

For injuries resulting in days away from work, the largest percentage for *nature of* 

Table 2: Estimated Number of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work<sup>a</sup> by Selected Worker and Case Characteristics and Total Industry, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2003-2007

			Total F	Private Indus	stry <sup>b,c,d</sup>	
	Characteristic	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total		3,770	3,510	3,800	3,250	3,420
Condor	Men	2,430	2,360	2,710	2,260	2,350
Gender	Women	1,280	1,100	1,060	950	1,020
	Cases involving 1 day	500	550	550	320	300
	Cases involving 2 days	410	330	450	350	310
	Cases involving 3-5 days	800	520	720	640	750
Number of days away	Cases involving 6-10 days	460	390	460	400	590
from work	Cases involving 11-20 days	400	560	430	440	380
	Cases involving 21-30 days	290	260	250	220	190
	Cases involving 31 or more days	920	890	940	890	910
	Median days away from work <sup>e</sup>	7	10	7	10	8
	Sunday	150	260	250	170	210
	Monday	760	540	660	600	490
	Tuesday	640	580	640	570	650
Day of the week	Wednesday	540	720	730	620	530
	Thursday	660	560	680	530	720
	Friday	630	550	600	520	590
	Saturday	400	290	240	240	220

<sup>a</sup>Days away from work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>c</sup>Data for mining (sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System – United States, 2002) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil & gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates for other industries.

<sup>d</sup>Data for employers in railroad transportation are provided to the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

<sup>e</sup>Median days away from work is the measure used to summarize the varying lengths of absences from work among the cases with days away from work. Half the cases involved more days and half involved less days than a specified median. Median days away from work are represented in actual values.

Note: Because of rounding and data exclusion of nonclassifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals. The scientifically selected probability sample used was one of many possible samples, each of which could have produced different estimates. A measure of sampling variability for each estimate is available upon request.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies.



Figure 4: Percentage Distribution of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses to All Workers by Occupation, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2007



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies.

Figure 5: Estimated Numbers of Men and Women in Cases With Days Away from Work by Selected Industry, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2007

leading cause of injuries resulting in days away from work from 2002 through 2007. This suggests that employers should place additional emphasis on sprain and strain prevention.

# Occupation

Table 3 (see page 12) shows four of nine occupations that had high numbers of cases in 2005 through 2007. In 2007, hand laborers & freight, stock, & material movers had the most injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work (310). This occupation also had the highest number of cases in 2006 (290). In contrast, in 2005 construction laborers recorded the most (270 cases).

The second highest number of cases by occupation in 2007 was for construction laborers (240), whereas all other extraction workers had 200 cases in 2006 and 250 in 2005. Increases occurred in several occupations, including construction laborers (110 to 240) and heavy & tractor-trailer truck drivers (140 to 230).

Much of the annual variation in the number of work-related injuries and illnesses could be related to the nature of Wyoming's jobs. Another factor could be an increase or decrease in employment for certain occupations. In 2006, there were an estimated 3,800 hand laborers & freight, stock, & material movers in Wyoming (Wyoming

**Occupational Employment** and Wages, 2007). In 2007, that number decreased to 3,230 workers (-15.0%; Wyoming Occupational Employment and Wages, 2008). More than 9.6% of those employees were injured in 2007; fewer than 7.6% were injured in 2006. The percentage of the injured or ill rose 26.3%. This suggests, at least for this occupation, that with fewer workers than in previous years, injuries occurred at a higher rate, possibly because the demand for workers outpaced the supply. Another reason may be the lower level of experience among new workers.

### Summary

From 2006 to 2007, Wyoming experienced an increase of an estimated 170 work-related injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work. Overall, men continued to experience work-related injuries and illnesses more frequently than women. This was likely due, in part, to higher ratios of men to women employed in industries with higher estimated incidence rates; the exception was educational & health services. In general, as in 2006, older workers in more dangerous professions who



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies.

Figure 6: Percentage Distribution of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses by Age of Worker, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2007



Figure 7: Percentage Distribution of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work by Nature of Injury or Illness, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2007

had less job experience incurred more work-related injuries and illnesses in 2007. More detail on 2007 data as well as historical data and documentation is available at http://doe.state. wy.us/LMI/OSH/OSH\_07/ toc.htm.

# Table 3: Selected Occupations with High Numbers of Estimated Cases with Days Away from Work<sup>a</sup> and the Relative Standard Error, Wyoming, Private Industry, 2005-2007

	20	05		20	06		20	07	
	OES <sup>ь</sup>			OES⁵			OES⁵		
Occupation	Employment	Cases	RSE	Employment	Cases	RSE	Employment	Cases	RSE
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	3,190	180	11.8	3,800	290	6.6	3,230	310	7.8
Construction Laborers	2,270	270	10.2	2,300	110	9.8	2,730	240	8.4
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor- Trailer	5,500	90	15.6	6,060	140	8.8	6,450	230	8.5
Extraction Workers, All Other	1,690	250	10.5	1,390	200	7.5	1,480	140	10.3
Cooks, Restaurant	2,310	50	21.3	2,250	30	17.8	2,340	120	10.7
Helpers, Production Workers	500	60	19.6	720			750	90	12.0
Retail Salespersons	7,700	40	22.9	7,570	50	14.3	7,870	90	12.1
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	1,030	60	19.4	1,310	70	12.1	1,720	80	12.9
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	2,990	160	12.5	2,950	80	10.9	3,080	70	13.2
Employment and Case Column Totals	27,180	1,160		28,350	970		29,650	1,370	

#### Total cases in 2005 = 3,800; total cases in 2006 = 3,250; total cases in 2007 = 3,420

<sup>a</sup>Days away from work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction. <sup>b</sup>Occupational Employment Statistics; data includes all ownerships.

<sup>c</sup>Relative standard error; the higher the number, the less statistically significant the estimate.

Note: Dashes indicate data that are not available. Numbers in bold are in the top four cases for 2005 and 2006, and the top nine cases for 2007.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in cooperation with participating state agencies.

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Wyoming Occupational Employment

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# excerpted from http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/post\_injury/report.pdf Post-Injury Wage Loss, A Quasi-Experimental Design

by: Tony Glover, Workforce Information Supervisor

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA, 2009) estimates that each year 5,200 deaths occur as a direct result of workplace injuries, 50,000 employees die from long-term illnesses related to workplace exposure, and nearly 4.3 million people suffer non-fatal injuries. Leigh, Markowitz, Fahs, and Landrigan (2000) estimated the total direct and indirect cost related to workplace injury and illness was between \$128 billion and \$155 billion.

A recent meta-analysis (an analysis combining results from several studies related to a similar topic) on occupational injury and illness (Schulte, 2005) reviewed 40 independent studies and concluded "The magnitude of occupational disease and injury burden is significant but underestimated. There is need for an integrated approach to address these underestimates." Shulte's meta-analysis revealed that current approaches to measuring costs due to occupational injuries or death are indirect and incomplete. In 2001 Reville, Bhattacharya, & Weinstein speculated that technological advances and linked employee-employer databases should lead to rapid advances in understanding the economic consequences of workplace injuries. To our knowledge, Wyoming's Research & Planning is the only agency in this country with complete access to the four databases used in this study. We believe this study is a good first step towards using administrative databases as Reville proposed in 2001.

In March 2008 the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Prepared for The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center (MAP ERC)

Funding Source: This publication was supported by Grant Number 1T42OH009229-01 from CDC NIOSH Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of CDC NIOSH and MAP ERC.

Planning (R&P) submitted a proposal to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to study the impact of occupational injuries on employees short- and long-term earnings. In contrast to the studies described above, which were based on surveys and human capital statistical models, R&P's method combines several comprehensive longitudinal administrative databases. R&P's research focus is on workplacespecific injuries both in number and relative severity from the non-severe requiring minor medical attention to the most severe resulting in death. By combining administrative databases and analyzing long-term wage loss, R&P suggests consideration be given to the idea that prevention efforts be focused on workplace settings with the greatest number of injuries and injuries that lead to the most economic harm on the workers, the workers' families, and Wyoming's medical services.

The first advantage of administrative databases is the volume of information

(Text continued on page 15)

Table 1: De	mographic	s of the	Wyomin	g Workf	orce by	Age, Gé	ander, an	o M b	rkers' (	Compense	ation Cla	iimant S	tatus				
				MO	Covera	ge Unde	er Primar	y Emp	loyer A	ccount?					•	Total	
				Yes							No						
		1	MC C	laimant?						Ň	C Claima	nt?					
		Yes		_	Z	0			¥	Ş.	-	_	No				
Gender and Age	N %	s Sol	2004 Wages	Z	Rate %	Col %	2004 Wages	د ۲	ate %	ol 200	4 se	Rate %		2004 Wages	z	. Nolo	2004 Jaces
16-19	175 1.8%	6 4.0%	\$6,141	9,723	98.2%	8.7%	\$3,407	~	%2.0	8.0% \$5,8	76 1,02	4 99.3%	7.1%	\$3,989	10,929	8.4%	\$3,507
20-24	517 3.6%	6 11.8%	\$12,072	13,870	96.4%	12.4%	\$8,530	15 (	<b>J.8% 1</b>	7.0% \$10.3	59 1,81	9 99.2%	12.6%	\$9,374	16,221	12.4%	\$8,739
25-34	985 4.4%	6 22.5%	\$18,574	21,614	95.6%	19.4%	\$16,545	22 (	3.8% 2	5.0% \$17,4.	20 2,65	5 99.2%	18.5%	\$16,205	25,276	19.4% \$	16,589
<u>분</u> 35-44	991 4.2%	6 22.7%	\$22,103	22,685	95.8%	20.3%	\$21,726	18 (	0.6% 2 <sup>1</sup>	0.5% \$15,0	89 2,84	2 99.4%	19.8%	\$21,502	26,536	20.3% \$	21,712
분 45-54	1087 4.0%	6 24.9%	\$24,925	25,936	96.0%	23.2%	\$25,817	17 (	0.5% 1	9.3% \$20,5	42 3,39	8 99.5%	23.6%	\$23,364	30,438	23.3% \$	25,509
55-64	502 3.6%	6 11.5%	\$24,404	13,263	96.4%	11.9%	\$23,520	5	0.3%	5.7% \$21,1	91 1,93	1 99.7%	13.4%	\$21,505	15,701	12.0% \$	23,299
65+	106 2.9%	6 2.4%	\$16,442	3,511	97.1%	3.1%	\$11,575	4	, %9.C	4.5% \$7,3	45 64	8 99.4%	4.5%	\$13,307	4,269	3.3% \$	11,955
Total	4,370 3.8%	6 100.0%	\$20,278	111,568	96.2% 1	<b>00.00</b>	\$18,154	88	.6% 100	0.0% \$15,1	81 14,38	9.99.4%	100.0%	\$17,742	130,4151	\$ %0.00	18,177
16-19	298 2.9%	6 3.4%	\$7,508	9,899	97.1%	7.7%	\$4,098	10	1.4%	8.9% \$6,7	06 70	1 98.6%	7.5%	\$4,172	10,908	7.4%	\$4,198
20-24	1160 6.9%	6 13.3%	\$18,049	15,648	93.1%	12.2%	\$13,541	23	2.0% 2	0.5% \$13,8	96 1,10	0 98.0%	11.8%	\$11,204	12,931	12.2% \$	13,689
25-34	2,161 7.3%	6 24.9%	\$27,702	27,265	92.7%	21.2%	\$26,995	27	1.5% 2.	4.1% \$18,2	45 1,80	2 98.5%	19.3%	\$26,527	31,255	21.3% \$	27,010
<u> 명</u> 35-44	2,039 7.4%	6 23.5%	\$33,683	25,390	92.6%	19.8%	\$38,118	25	1.4% 2	2.3% \$24,4	59 1,76	0 98.6%	18.8%	\$38,029	29,214	19.9% \$	37,791
ž 45-54	2,001 6.5%	6 23.0%	\$38,569	28,641	93.5%	22.3%	\$46,376	13 (	J.7% 1	1.6% \$28,9	59 1,97	8 99.3%	21.2%	\$44,398	32,633	22.3% \$	45,770
55-64	888 5.4%	6 102%	\$37,310	15,506	94.6%	12.1%	\$44,107	12 (	1 %6:0	0.7% \$21,0	80 1,37	8 99.1%	14.7%	\$48,462	17,784	12.1% \$	44,090
65+	136 2.8%	6 1.6%	\$26,540	4,766	97.2%	3.7%	\$20,883	2	).4%	1.8% \$28,6	59 55	.2 99.6%	5.9%	\$34,756	5,459	3.7% \$	22,438
Total	8,693 6.3%	6 100.0%	\$30,563	128,312	93.7% 1	<b>00.00</b> %	\$31,720	112 1	.2% 100	<b>.0% \$19,4</b>	42 9,34	9 98.8%	100.0%	\$32,517	146,466 1	00.0% \$	31,693
16-19	473 2.4%	6 3.4%	\$7,002	19,623	97.6%	7.0%	\$3,756	17	1.0%	8.2% \$6,3	64 1,72	5 99.0%	6.3%	\$4,063	21,838	6.8%	\$3,852
20-24	1,677 5.4%	6 12.1%	\$16,206	29,520	94.6%	10.5%	\$11,186	38	1.3% 1	8.3% \$12,5	00 2,91	9 98.7%	10.6%	\$10,064	34,154	10.6% \$	11,338
25-34	3,146 6.0%	6 22.6%	\$24,844	48,881	94.0%	17.3%	\$22,374	49	1.1% 2	3.6% \$17,8	74 4,45	7 98.9%	16.2%	\$20,378	56,533	17.5% \$	22,350
35-44	3,030 5.9%	6 21.8%	\$29,896	48,078	94.1%	17.1%	\$30,383	43 (	<u>).9%</u> 2 <sup>,</sup>	0.7% \$20,5	37 4,60	3 99.1%	16.8%	\$27,826	55,754	17.2% \$	30,137
년 45-54	3,088 5.4%	6 222%	\$33,766	54,581	94.6%	19.4%	\$36,605	30	0.6% 1·	4.4% \$24,1	90 5,37	6 99.4%	19.6%	\$31,103	63,075	19.5% \$	35,991
55-64	1,390 4.6%	6 10.0%	\$32,649	28,771	95.4%	102%	\$34,614	17 (	0.5%	8.2% \$21,1	13 3,30	9 99.5%	12.0%	\$32,731	33,487	10.4% \$	34,339
65+	242 2.8%	6 1.7%	\$22,117	8,278	97.2%	2.9%	\$16,935	9	).5%	2.9% \$14,4	49 1,20	3 99.5%	4.4%	\$23,203	9,729	3.0% \$	17,837
Unknown	844 1.9%	6.1%	\$11,669	44,212	98.1%	15.7%	\$7,242	8		3.8% \$19,9	08 3,87	5 99.8%	14.1%	\$8,035	48,939	15.1%	\$7,383
Total	13,890 4.7%	6 100.0%	\$26,212	281,944	95.3% 1	<b>00.00</b>	\$22,744	208 (	.8% 10(	0.0% \$17,6	57 27,46	7 99.2%	100.0%	\$21,475	323,509 1	00.0% \$:	22,782

Page 14

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

May 2009

we may observe

records that an

wages from one

individual's total

using wage

(Text continued from page 13)

they contain. For example, when collecting survey data, it is typical to collect information on subsequent earnings from a small representative sample of the group studied. In contrast, R&P uses Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Records, which include the wages by quarter for 90.0% of persons employed in

bias, incentives to misrepresent, and other

factors. Wage records are collected from

employers for unemployment insurance

misrepresentation. Lastly, administrative

databases are easily combined with other

costly to collect, maintain, and analyze. A

brief list and descriptions of the databases used in the first phase of this study are

administrative databases and are less

• R&P's Wyoming Administrative

• Wage Records - Wages by social

from 1992 to present.

security number for all persons

Worker's Compensation data (WC) –

workers' compensation claims in 2004.

employed in UI-covered employment

• Driver's License Data (DL) - Wyoming

Driver's license activity from 1988 to

present including dates of issuance

and renewal and change of address.

License data are used to construct

theoretically relevant comparison

tax purposes, are frequently audited,

and have penalties associated with

• Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) – A quarterly count of employment and wages by employer from 1990 to present. The QCEW assigns a North American Industry Classification System code to the industries in which employees work.

A disadvantage of administrative databases includes an absence of depth. For example,

Wyoming from 1992 to present. Additionally, survey data are collected from the individual and subject to reporting errors due to recall

below.

Note: Tables and figures shown in this article are referenced in the full document, available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/post\_injury/

year to the next declined but the database does not offer details as to why this occurred. The reasons could include an economic downturn or recession (which is largely outside the individual's control) or taking time off to care for a family member (a very personal reason). However, the methodological design of this study counters this disadvantage in the following ways.

First, Chapter 2 discusses the economic context (economic expansion) in which our analysis takes place. By knowing what is going on in the environment in which injured individuals are operating we gain a better understanding of the factors shaping employment opportunities and wages. For example, Tables 2a & 2b (see page 17) show Wyoming employment from 2001 to 2008 grew from 239,763 to 287,779 or 20.0%. At the same time, the average weekly wage increased from \$527 to \$780 or 48.0%. In light of this information we would expect to see the injured individual's wages increase at a similar rate if the injury had no impact on earnings.

(control) groups.

Table 2a: Wyoming Employment by Industry, 2001, 2004, and 2008

	2001	Q2	2004	IQ2	2008	8Q2	Chan 2001-2	ge, 2004	Chan 2004-2	ige, 2008
		% of		% of		% of	<b>N</b> <i>i</i>	<b>0</b> ′	<b>N</b> <i>i</i>	<b>0</b> /
Industry	<u>N</u>	lotal	<u>N</u>	lotal	<u>N</u>	Iotal	Net	%	Net	%
Goods-Producing	49,948	20.8%	51,559	20.6%	69,108	24.0%	1,611	3.2%	17,549	34.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	20,413	8.5%	22,239	8.9%	31,023	10.8%	1,826	8.9%	8,784	39.5%
Mining	17,897	7.5%	19,689	7.9%	28,619	9.9%	1,792	10.0%	8,930	45.4%
Construction	19,565	8.2%	19,977	8.0%	28,230	9.8%	412	2.1%	8,253	41.3%
Manufacturing	9,970	4.2%	9,343	3.7%	9,855	3.4%	-627	-6.3%	512	5.5%
Service-Providing	189,815	79.2%	199,227	79.4%	218,671	76.0%	9,412	5.0%	19,444	9.8%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	46,011	19.2%	46,944	18.7%	53,015	18.4%	933	2.0%	6,071	12.9%
Information	3,971	1.7%	4,251	1.7%	4,004	1.4%	280	7.1%	-247	-5.8%
Financial Activities	9,626	4.0%	10,490	4.2%	11,624	4.0%	864	9.0%	1,134	10.8%
Professional & Business Services	15,971	6.7%	15,665	6.2%	18,956	6.6%	-306	-1.9%	3,291	21.0%
Educational & Health Services	18,385	7.7%	20,497	8.2%	23,376	8.1%	2,112	11.5%	2,879	14.0%
Educational Services	1,054	0.4%	1,204	0.5%	1,452	0.5%	150	14.3%	248	20.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	17,331	7.2%	19,293	7.7%	21,924	7.6%	1,962	11.3%	2,631	13.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	30,268	12.6%	31,962	12.7%	34,856	12.1%	1,694	5.6%	2,894	9.1%
Other Services	7,651	3.2%	7,539	3.0%	8,380	2.9%	-112	-1.5%	841	11.2%
Government	57,932	24.2%	61,879	24.7%	64,460	22.4%	3,947	6.8%	2,581	4.2%
Total	239,763	100.0%2	250,786	100.0%2	287,779	100.0%	11,023	4.6%	36,993	14.8%
Source: Wyoming Departmen Employment and Wages (QCE	t of Emplo W). Retrie	yment, R ved April	esearch 10, 2009	& Plannir ), from ht	ng. (n.d.). tp://doe.	Wyoming state.wy.	g Quarte us/lmi/to	rly Censu c_202.ht	is of tm	

Second, Chapter 3 shows the methods used to select matched control groups for this study. A matched control group is a statistically selected portion of Wyoming's workforce that is similar to the workers' compensation claimants on a number of theoretically relevant characteristics. In the current study, these characteristics include sex and age (characteristics of the individual), earnings, quarters worked, primary industry, and tenure with employer (characteristics of the individual's relationship to Wyoming's labor market). Matching the injured to a randomly matched control group effectively eliminated the impact of a wage change due to nonworkrelated (e.g. personal) reasons as we are just

as likely to select a comparable individual that takes time off to care for a family member for the control group.

A true experimental design would have us take the entire workforce of Wyoming and randomly assign individuals to the injured (treatment group) and the non-injured (control group). Our next step would be to injure everyone in the treatment group and then assess the difference in earnings between the two groups at a future point in time. True experimental design, while unethical to conduct for a number of reasons, is the only design that allows you to say that the injury caused an earnings decrease.

#### Table 2b: Wyoming Average Weekly Wage by Industry, 2001, 2004, and 2008

	200	1Q2	2004	4Q2	200	8Q2	Cha 2001	ange -2004	Cha 2004-	nge 2008
Industry	Avg. Weekly Wage	% of Average Weekly Wage	Average Weekly Wage	% of Average Weekly Wage	Average Weekly Wage	% of Average Weekly Wage	Net	%	Net	%
Goods-Producing	\$615	116.6%	\$675	115.3%	\$968	124.2%	\$60	9.8%	\$293	43.5%
Natural Resources & Mining	\$943	178.9%	\$1,011	172.6%	\$1,365	175.0%	\$68	7.2%	\$354	35.0%
Mining	\$1,023	194.2%	\$1,089	186.0%	\$1,440	184.6%	\$66	6.5%	\$351	32.2%
Construction	\$585	111.1%	\$617	105.3%	\$870	111.6%	\$31	5.4%	\$254	41.2%
Manufacturing	\$694	131.8%	\$721	123.2%	\$910	116.7%	\$27	3.9%	\$189	26.1%
Service-Providing	\$504	95.6%	\$678	115.7%	\$710	91.0%	\$174	34.5%	\$32	4.7%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	\$460	87.4%	\$528	90.2%	\$669	85.8%	\$68	14.7%	\$141	26.8%
Information	\$547	103.9%	\$582	99.3%	\$680	87.2%	\$34	6.3%	\$98	16.9%
Financial Activities	\$571	108.4%	\$614	104.9%	\$801	102.7%	\$43	7.6%	\$187	30.4%
Professional & Business Services	\$496	94.1%	\$587	100.3%	\$801	102.7%	\$91	18.4%	\$214	36.5%
Educational & Health Services	\$507	96.2%	\$573	97.8%	\$694	89.0%	\$66	13.0%	\$121	21.1%
Educational Services	\$369	70.1%	\$427	73.0%	\$485	62.2%	\$58	15.7%	\$58	13.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$515	97.8%	\$582	99.4%	\$708	90.7%	\$67	12.9%	\$126	21.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	\$203	38.5%	\$230	39.3%	\$289	37.0%	\$27	13.2%	\$59	25.6%
Other Services	\$384	72.9%	\$412	70.4%	\$588	75.4%	\$28	7.3%	\$176	42.7%
Government	\$579	109.9%	\$650	111.0%	\$848	108.7%	\$71	12.3%	\$198	30.4%
Total	\$527	100.0%	\$586	100.0%	\$780	100.0%	\$59	11.1%	\$194	33.2%
	onartmon	t of Employ	ument Res	oarch & Dia	nning (n	d) Wyomir		torly Cone	us of	

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning. (n.d.). Wyoming Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Retrieved April 10, 2009, from http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/toc\_202.htm

Due to the ethical problem associated with gathering a random group of people and inflicting a physical injury on them, this study uses a quasi-experimental design. allows us to determine the impact of an injury on future earnings to a degree of certainty via statistical methods. The most important keys to a quasi-experimental design are an understanding of the environment with which the participants

Quasi- or almost-experimental design

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



Figure 1: Workers' Compensation Claims Rates for Workers Covered by Primary Employer Account for Selected Industries, 2004

interact and the control group selection. Both of these, mentioned previously, are documented in more detail in the following chapters. For a more in depth discussion of control groups and research design see "Compared to What? Purpose and Method of Control Group Selection" (Glover, 2002).

The results of this study clearly demonstrate that an injury has a significant impact on the workers' compensation



Figure 2: Statewide Wages of Claimants and Non-Claimants Covered by Primary Employer Accounts for Selected Industries, 2004

claimants' subsequent earnings and quarters worked over the three and a half years following injury in 2004. The difference in earnings and quarters worked correspondingly increase with the severity of the injury. The results also show that the earnings loss relative to the severity of the injury is further differentiated by the industry in which the individual worked. Lastly, this study demonstrates the effectiveness of using comprehensive

longitudinal databases to address current labor market issues.

The 2004 WC file was coded to the Standard Occupational Classification system by R&P employees responsible for occupational coding in the BLS's Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), Survey of **Occupational Injury** and Illness (SOII), and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) programs based on

the information contained on the Wyoming Report of Injury Form (see Appendix A, page 42). Future avenues of research will incorporate the occupation along with the other factors discussed in this study: gender, age, quarters worked, industry, wages, tenure and additional data available from the worker's compensation system (e.g. date of injury) to build predictive models. These models will describe the factors

The results of this study clearly demonstrate that an injury has a significant impact on the workers' compensation claimants' subsequent earnings and quarters worked over the three and a half years following injury in 2004. The difference in earnings and quarters worked correspondingly increase with the severity of the injury. The results also show that the earnings loss relative to the severity of the injury is further differentiated by the industry in which the individual worked.

leading to injury or death and give policy makers the tools necessary to help prevent or lessen the impact of those outcomes.

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# Employer Seminar **Presentations Available Online**

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# Wyoming Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.5% in March

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

yoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.9% in February to 4.5% in March, its highest level since August 2003. It remained well below the U.S. rate of 8.5%. Job losses in several sectors caused overall job growth (as measured on an over-the-year basis) to decrease to 0.0%. its slowest pace since March 2003.

From February to March, employment decreased by 300 jobs (-0.1%). The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to rise by approximately 2,900 jobs in March. Employment fell in natural resources & mining (-1,000 jobs, or -3.5%), construction (-400 jobs, or -1.6%), and other services (-100 jobs, or -0.8%). Employment increased by 100 jobs in each of the following sectors: wholesale trade (1.1%), retail trade (0.3%)transportation & utilities (0.7%), financial activities (0.9%), professional & business services (0.6%), educational & health services (0.4%), and leisure & hospitality (0.3%). Government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals) followed its normal seasonal pattern and increased by 500 jobs, or 0.7%.

Over the year Wyoming lost an estimated 100 jobs (0.0%). Job losses in construction (-2,300 jobs, or -8.8%), leisure & hospitality (-500 jobs, or -1.5%), professional & business services (-400 jobs, or -2.3%), other services (-200 jobs, or -1.7%), natural resources & mining (-200 jobs, or -0.7%), and retail trade (-100 jobs, or -0.3%) were nearly offset by job gains in several sectors. Government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals) added 2,200 jobs (3.2%). Growth was also seen in educational & health services (900 jobs, or 3.7%), wholesale trade (200 jobs, or 2.2%), manufacturing (100 jobs, or 1.0%), transportation & utilities (100 jobs, or 0.7%), and financial activities (100 jobs, or 0.9%).

County unemployment rates increased from February to March. The highest rates were found in Big Horn (8.7%), Lincoln (8.0%), and Fremont (7.0%) counties. Sublette County posted the lowest R&] unemployment rate (3.3%), followed by Albany (3.4%) and Campbell (4.0%)



counties.

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### State Unemployment Rates March 2009 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Unemp.
State	Rate
Puerto Rico	15.0
Michigan	12.6
Oregon	12.1
South Carolina	11.4
California	11.2
North Carolina	10.8
Rhode Island	10.5
Nevada	10.4
Indiana	10.0
District of Columbia	9.8
Kentucky	9.8
Florida	9.7
Unio	9.7
lennessee	9.6
	9.4
Georgia	9.2
Washington	9.2
	9.1
Alabama	9.0
Missouri	8./ 9.F
	8.5 9 F
Wisconsin	<b>0.5</b>
New Jorsey	0.5
Minnosota	0.5 0 0
Maino	0.2
Arizona	0.1 7 9
Massachusetts	7.0
New York	7.0
Pennsylvania	7.0
Delaware	7.0
Colorado	7.5
Connecticut	7.5
Vermont	7.2
Hawaii	7.1
Idaho	7.0
Maryland	6.9
West Virginia	6.9
Virginia	6.8
Texas	6.7
Arkansas	6.5
New Hampshire	6.2
Kansas	6.1
Montana	6.1
New Mexico	5.9
Oklahoma	5.9
Louisiana	5.8
lowa	5.2
Utah	5.2
South Dakota	4.9
Nebraska	4.6
Wyoming	4.5
North Dakota	4.2

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

### by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

From February to March, employment decreased by 300 jobs (-0.1%). The normal seasonal pattern is for employment to rise by approximately 2,900 jobs in March.

	Emp	pioyment ii	n Per To	centage tal Empli	Change	
WYOMING STATEWIDE	<u></u>	100301103	10	Feb09	Mar08	
W TOMING STATEWIDE	<u>Mar09(p)</u>	<u>Feb09(r)</u>	<u>Mar08</u>	<u>Mar09</u>	<u>Mar09</u>	
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	289.6	289.9	289.7	-0.1	0.0	
TOTAL PRIVATE	218.1	218.9	220.4	-0.4	-1.0	
GOODS PRODUCING	61.5	62.9	63.9	-2.2	-3.8	
Natural Resources & Mining	27.9	28.9	28.1	-3.5	-0.7	
Oil & Cas Extraction	27.7	28.8	28.0	-3.8	-1.1	
Mining Except Oil & Gas	4.4	9.5	4.0	-2.2	3.2	
Coal Mining	7.0	7.0	66	0.0	61	
Support Activities for Mining	13.5	14.5	13.9	-6.9	-2.9	
Support Act, for Oil & Gas	10.9	11.5	10.4	-5.2	4.8	
Construction	23.9	24.3	26.2	-1.6	-8.8	
Construction of Buildings	4.0	4.1	4.7	-2.4	-14.9	
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	8.0	8.0	9.2	0.0	-13.0	
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.9	12.2	12.3	-2.5	-3.3	
Manufacturing	9.7	9.7	9.6	0.0	1.0	
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0	
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	2.2	
SERVICE PROVIDING	228.1	227.0	225.8	0.5	1.0	
Irade, Irans., Warehousing, & Util.	55.0	54./	54.8	0.5	0.4	
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.0	8.9	1.1	2.2	
Retail Trade	0.U 21.2	5.9 21 1	5.8 21.2	1./	3.4	
Motor Vohicle & Parts Dealors	51.Z	51.I 45	21.5	0.5	-0.5	
Food & Beverage Stores	4.5	4.5	4.0	0.0	-2.2	
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.2	
Gasoline Stations	4.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	0.0	
General Merchandise Stores	6.9	6.7	6.5	3.0	6.2	
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6	
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	14.7	14.6	14.6	0.7	0.7	
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	
Transportation & Warehousing	12.2	12.1	12.1	0.8	0.8	
Truck Transportation	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.0	4.7	
Information	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	
Financial Activities	11.5	11.4	11.4	0.9	0.9	
Pindice & Insurance Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	/.2	/.2	/.1	0.0	1.4	
Professional & Business Services	4.5	4.2	4.5	2.4	-2.3	
Prof Scientific & Tech Services	96	96	9.8	0.0	-2.5	
Architect Engineering & Rel	2.0	2.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	
Mamt, of Companies & Enterprises	5 0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	
Admin., Support, & Waste Services	6.9	6.8	7.1	1.5	-2.8	
Educational & Health Services	25.0	24.9	24.1	0.4	3.7	
Educational Services	2.3	2.4	2.4	-4.2	-4.2	
Health Care & Social Assistance	22.7	22.5	21.7	0.9	4.6	
Ambulatory Health Care	8.5	8.4	8.1	1.2	4.9	
Offices of Physicians	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2	
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	6.5	
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3	
Social Assistance	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.0	4.9	
Arts Entortainmont & Pocroation	52.0	21.9	32.5	0.5	-1.5	
Accommodation & Food Services	2.3	2.5	30.0	0.0	-0.0	
Accommodation	10.8	11.1	11.1	-2.7	-2.7	
Food Services & Drinking Place	s 18.9	18.5	18.9	2.2	0.0	
Other Services	11.8	11.9	12.0	-0.8	-1.7	
Repair & Maintenance	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	71.5	71.0	69.3	0.7	3.2	
Federal Government	6.9	6.9	6.8	0.0	1.5	
State Government	16.8	16.7	15.9	0.6	5.7	
State Government Education	7.4	7.4	6.7	0.0	10.4	
Local Government	47.8	47.4	46.6	0.8	2.6	
Local Government Education	25.2	24.8	24.7	1.6	2.0	
	6.6	6.6	6.2	0.0	0.5	

	Em	ployment i	in Pe	rcentage	e Change
	<u>1</u>	nousanus	<u>10</u>	Feb09	Mar08
LARAMIE COUNTY	<u>Mar09(p)</u>	<u>Feb09(r)</u>	<u>Mar08</u>	Mar09	Mar09
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	44.5	44.4	44.6	0.2	-0.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	30.4	30.4	31.0	0.0	-1.9
GOODS PRODUCING	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	-4.3
Natural Res., Mining, & Construction	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
SERVICE PROVIDING	40.0	39.9	39.9	0.3	0.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.4	9.4	9.8	0.0	-4.1
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.4	5.4	5.6	0.0	-3.6
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	-6.1
Information	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Financial Activities	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	3.1	3.1	3.4	0.0	-8.8
Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.1	3.9	0.0	5.1
Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-2.2
Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	14.1	14.0	13.6	0.7	3.7
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
State Government	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
Local Government	7.3	7.2	7.0	1.4	4.3
Local Education	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	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 Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities Information Financial Activities Professional & Business Services Educational & Health Services Leisure & Hospitality Other Services TOTAL GOVERNMENT

Federal Government State Government Local Government Local Education

#### Federal Funding Cuts Lead to Discontinuation of MSA Employment Statistics

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

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and parttime wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week that includes the 12th of the month. Selfemployed, 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 LABOR FORCE TRENDS

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Em T	ployment housands	in Pe	Percentage Change Total Employment Feb09 Mar08		
	<u>Mar09</u>	<u>Feb09</u>	<u>Mar08</u>	<u>Mar09</u>	Mar09	
& SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.0	30.0	29.0	0.0	3.4	
TOTAL PRIVATE GOODS PRODUCING Natural Resources & Mining Construction Manufacturing	<b>25.7</b> <b>13.1</b> 8.3 4.2 0.6	<b>25.7</b> <b>13.1</b> 8.3 4.2 0.6	<b>24.8</b> 12.4 7.9 3.8 0.7	0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	<b>3.6</b> <b>5.6</b> 10.5 -14.3	
SERVICE PROVIDING Trade, Transportation, & Utilities Information Financial Activities Professional & Business Services Educational & Health Services Leisure & Hospitality Other Services	<b>16.9</b> 5.6 0.2 0.8 2.0 0.9 2.0 1.1	<b>16.9</b> 5.6 0.2 0.8 2.0 0.9 2.0 1.1	<b>16.6</b> 5.6 0.2 1.9 1.0 1.9 1.1	0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	<b>1.8</b> 0.0 0.0 14.3 5.3 -10.0 5.3 0.0	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4	
SWEETWATER COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.1	25.9	25.8	0.8	1.2	
TOTAL PRIVATE GOODS PRODUCING Natural Resources & Mining Construction Manufacturing	<b>21.5</b> <b>9.5</b> 6.1 2.1 1.3	<b>21.4</b> <b>9.5</b> 6.1 2.1 1.3	<b>21.3</b> <b>9.6</b> 5.9 2.4 1.3	0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	<b>0.9</b> - <b>1.0</b> 3.4 -12.5 0.0	
SERVICE PROVIDING Trade, Transportation, & Utilities Information Financial Activities Professional & Business Services Educational & Health Services Leisure & Hospitality Other Services	<b>16.6</b> 5.3 0.2 1.0 1.2 1.0 2.5 0.8	<b>16.4</b> 5.3 0.2 1.0 1.2 1.0 2.4 0.8	<b>16.2</b> 5.3 0.2 0.9 1.1 0.9 2.5 0.8	1.2 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 4.2 0.0	2.5 0.0 11.1 9.1 11.1 0.0 0.0	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.2	2.2	
TETON COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	17.7	17.9	17.9	-1.1	-1.1	
TOTAL PRIVATE GOODS PRODUCING Natural Res., Mining, & Construction Manufacturing	<b>15.5</b> <b>2.4</b> 2.3 0.1	15.7 2.3 2.2 0.1	15.7 2.4 2.3 0.1	- <b>1.3</b> 4.3 4.5 0.0	-1.3 0.0 0.0 0.0	
SERVICE PROVIDING Trade, Transportation, & Utilities Information Financial Activities Professional & Business Services Educational & Health Services Leisure & Hospitality Other Services	<b>15.3</b> 2.5 0.2 1.0 1.6 0.9 6.4 0.5	<b>15.6</b> 2.6 0.2 1.0 1.7 0.9 6.5 0.5	<b>15.5</b> 2.5 0.2 0.9 1.6 0.9 6.7 0.5	-1.9 -3.8 0.0 0.0 -5.9 0.0 -1.5 0.0	-1.3 0.0 0.0 11.1 0.0 0.0 -4.5 0.0	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0	

State Unemployment Rates
March 2009
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Unemp
State	Rate
Durante Dias	147
Puerto Rico	14.7
Michigan	13.4
Oregon	12.9
California	11.5
South Carolina	11.2
Rhode Island	11.1
North Carolina	10.9
Indiana	10.6
Nevada	10.5
Kentucky	10.3
Ohio	10.1
Tennessee	9.9
Washington	9.7
District of Columbia	9.5
Florida	9.5
Illinois	9.4
Mississippi	9.4
Wisconsin	9.4
Alaska	9.3
Georgia	9.2
Missouri	9.1
Alabama	9.0
United States	9.0
Maine	8.9
Minnesota	8.9
New Jersey	8.7
Massachusetts	8.2
Pennsylvania	8.2
New York	8.1
Colorado	7.9
Delaware	7.9
Idaho	7.9
Vermont	7.9
Connecticut	7.8
Arizona	7.7
West Virginia	7.7
Hawaii	7.0
Maryland	7.0
Virginia	7.0
Montana	6.9
Arkansas	6.7
Texas	6.7
New Hampshire	6.6
Kansas	6.5
Oklahoma	6.1
New Mexico	6.0
lowa	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
South Dakota	5.4
Utah	5.4
Wyoming	5.3
North Dakota	5.1
Nebraska	4.9

# **Economic Indicators**

### by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Consumer Price Index decreased by 0.4% from March 2008 to March 2009.

	Mar 2009	Febr	MarP	MarPercent Cha		
	(q)	(r)	(b)	MONUT	icai	
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force <sup>a</sup>	288,952	289,404	290,501	-0.2	-0.5	
Unemployed	15,231	13,684	10,116	11.3	50.6	
Employed Wyoming Unomp. Pate/Soaconally Adjusted	2/3,/21	2/5,/20	280,385	-0.7	-2.4	
US Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.5%/4.5% 9.0%/8.5%	4.7%/5.9%	5.2%/2.9%	N/A N/A	N/A	
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,723,000	7,676,000	7,499,000	0.6	3.0	
As a percentage of all workers	5.5%	5.5%	5.2%	N/A	N/A	
U.S. Discouraged Workers	685,000	731,000	401,000	-6.3	70.8	
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	9,305,000	9,170,000	5,038,000	1.5	84.7	
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers						
Wyoming Mining		Data not available;	see box on page	22.		
Average Weekly Earnings						
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings						
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,005.58	\$1,008.77	\$1,018.65	-0.3	-1.3	
Average Weekly Hours	42.9	43.5	45.7	-1.4	-6.1	
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings						
Average Weekly Earnings	\$842.10	\$868.08	\$832.91	-3.0	1.1	
Average Weekly Hours	40.1	41.2	41.5	-2.7	-3.4	
O.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings Average Weekly Farnings	\$708.34	\$708.34	\$77/18	0.0	-2.2	
Average Weekly Hours	39.2	39.2	41.1	0.0	-4.6	
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance						
Weeks Compensated	45,379	33,054	14,699	37.3	208.7	
Benefits Paid	\$15,334,042	\$10,914,092	\$4,422,105	40.5	246.8	
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$337.91	\$330.19	\$300.84	2.3	12.3	
State Insured Covered Jobs <sup>a</sup>	269,992	267,744	265,419	0.8	1.7	
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.2%	2.8%	1.3%	N/A	N/A	
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers	242 7	212.2	2425			
(1982  to  1984 = 100) - AII Items	212.7	212.2	213.5	0.2	-0.4	
Housing	218.8	219.5	209.7	-0.2	4.5	
Apparel	122.5	118.8	120.9	3.1	1.4	
Transportation	169.6	169.5	195.2	0.1	-13.1	
Medical Care	373.2	372.4	363.0	0.2	2.8	
Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)	114.6	114.5	112.7	0.1	1.7	
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)	126.2	126.2	121.8	0.0	3.6	
Other Goods & Services	361.2	351.2	341.8	2.8	5./	
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities	168.1	169.5	187.9	-0.8	-10.5	
Wyoming Building Permits						
(New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)	_			<i></i>		
Total Units	610 000 000	76 ¢11 705 000	193	23.7	-51.3	
valuation Single Family Homos	\$19,890,000	\$11,705,000 F7	\$62,444,000 174	69.9 20 4	-08.1	
Valuation	79 م00 \$19 \$31 م	رد 10 996 000	170 60 531 000	50.0 75.8	-55.1	
	÷ • >,55 • ,000	÷10,5000	<i>200,00</i> 1,000	75.0	00.1	
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	44	52	66	-15.4	-33.3	
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.						

<sup>a</sup>Local Area Unemployment Statistics program estimates.

Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming



# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

## by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

County unemployment rates increased from February to March. The highest rates were found in Big Horn (8.7%), Lincoln (8.0%), and Fremont (7.0%) counties.

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
<b>REGION</b> County	Mar 2009 (p)	Feb 2009 (r)	Mar 2008 (b)									
NORTHWEST	43,521	43,337	43,192	40,627	40,739	41,152	2,894	2,598	2,040	6.6	6.0	4.7
Big Horn	5,056	4,985	4,830	4,614	4,624	4,582	442	361	248	8.7	7.2	5.1
Fremont	18,403	18,332	18,305	17,118	17,155	17,449	1,285	1,177	856	7.0	6.4	4.7
Hot Springs	2,344	2,325	2,399	2,218	2,213	2,296	126	112	103	5.4	4.8	4.3
Park	13,448	13,390	13,516	12,647	12,660	12,913	801	730	603	6.0	5.5	4.5
Washakie	4,270	4,305	4,142	4,030	4,087	3,912	240	218	230	5.6	5.1	5.6
NORTHEAST	53,839	53,932	53,478	51,181	51,611	51,847	2,658	2,321	1,631	4.9	4.3	3.0
Campbell	27,342	27,501	27,063	26,237	26,581	26,421	1,105	920	642	4.0	3.3	2.4
Crook	3,371	3,350	3,457	3,193	3,204	3,319	178	146	138	5.3	4.4	4.0
Johnson	4,031	3,994	3,933	3,785	3,769	3,764	246	225	169	6.1	5.6	4.3
Sheridan	15,905	15,893	15,777	14,947	15,018	15,210	958	875	567	6.0	5.5	3.6
Weston	3,190	3,194	3,248	3,019	3,039	3,133	171	155	115	5.4	4.9	3.5
SOUTHWEST	64,125	64,285	64,615	60,808	61,379	62,792	3,317	2,906	1,823	5.2	4.5	2.8
Lincoln	7,873	7,884	8,425	7,244	7,317	8,092	629	567	333	8.0	7.2	4.0
Sublette	7,079	7,051	6,821	6,842	6,854	6,702	237	197	119	3.3	2.8	1.7
Sweetwater	24,122	24,093	24,222	22,987	23,146	23,581	1,135	947	641	4.7	3.9	2.6
Teton	13,637	13,814	13,909	12,940	13,152	13,575	697	662	334	5.1	4.8	2.4
Uinta	11,414	11,443	11,238	10,795	10,910	10,842	619	533	396	5.4	4.7	3.5
SOUTHEAST	71,545	72,047	73,212	68,058	68,695	70,405	3,487	3,352	2,807	4.9	4.7	3.8
Albany	19,194	19,267	19,248	18,551	18,712	18,731	643	555	517	3.4	2.9	2.7
Goshen	5,914	5,944	6,120	5,624	5,660	5,857	290	284	263	4.9	4.8	4.3
Laramie	41,430	41,882	42,572	39,151	39,631	40,781	2,279	2,251	1,791	5.5	5.4	4.2
Niobrara	1,201	1,189	1,265	1,144	1,135	1,203	57	54	62	4.7	4.5	4.9
Platte	3,806	3,765	4,007	3,588	3,557	3,833	218	208	174	5.7	5.5	4.3
CENTRAL	55,918	55,799	56,005	53,045	53,294	54,190	2,873	2,505	1,815	5.1	4.5	3.2
Carbon	7,837	7,822	8,387	7,322	7,361	8,077	515	461	310	6.6	5.9	3.7
Converse	7,221	7,227	7,303	6,861	6,913	7,078	360	314	225	5.0	4.3	3.1
Natrona	40,860	40,750	40,315	38,862	39,020	39,035	1,998	1,730	1,280	4.9	4.2	3.2
STATEWIDE	288,952	289,404	290,501	273,721	275,720	280,385	15,231	13,684	10,116	5.3	4.7	3.5
Statewide Sease	onally Adjust	ted								4.5	3.9	2.9
U.S							•••••			9.0	8.9	5.2
U.S. Seasonally	Adiusted									8.5	8.1	5.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2009. Run date 04/2009.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

# Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

### by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Initial claims were 165.4% greater than at this time last year. The largest percentage increases were observed in mining (+549.7%), wholesale trade (+321.9%) and financial activities (+260.6%).



### Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Continued weeks claimed increased 153.9% compared to last year, while the number of claimants rose to 12,848 in March. Government claims were 41.5% greater than in March 2008.



Fan average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Department of Employment Research & Planning P.O. Box 2760 Casper, WY 82602

Official Business Penalty for Private Use \$300 Return Service Requested