

# TRENDS

## Economic Recovery and Labor Availability in Wyoming

by: *Craig Radden Henderson, BLS Program Supervisor*

map prepared by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

*Subsequent to the 2001 national recession, the Wyoming economy appears strong. Wyoming's economy also has momentum in the state's plans for construction of many public infrastructure projects. However, Wyoming employers will require access to sufficient qualified labor outside the state, and their ability to secure this labor will be driven by the pace of economic recovery elsewhere in the region. This report compares various measures of economic activity from March 2001 to May 2004 for the U.S., Wyoming, and selected Intermountain West states including employment and wage trends, and detailed employment comparisons in the Construction industry. While Wyoming seems uniquely poised to take advantage of Colorado and Utah's generally weaker economic positions, other states in the region, including New Mexico and Nevada, seem equally well positioned. In addition to regional competition, the Construction industry will also face in-state competition for labor from the growing Mining industry.*

(Text continued on page 3)

## HIGHLIGHTS

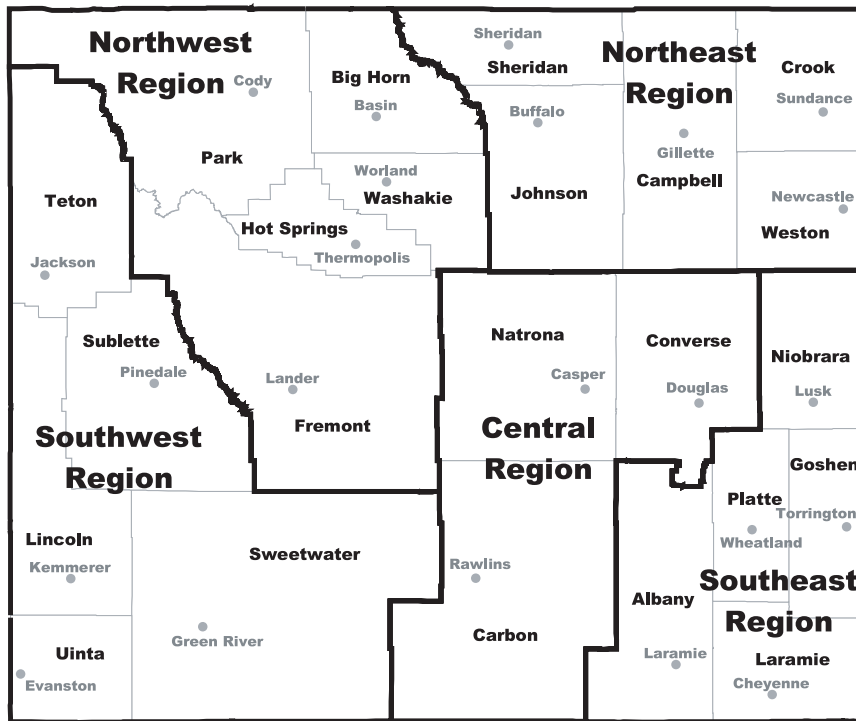
- **Covered Employment and Wage data for fourth quarter 2003 indicate Wyoming has recovered from the economic slowdown that prevailed during much of 2002 and 2003. Employment increased 1.7 percent and total wages were up 5.8 percent. The Mining industry (including oil & gas) grew by 1,645 jobs or 9.4 percent....page 10**
- **Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2004 was 3.7 percent....page 16**
- **County unemployment rates remain low, with only one county (Fremont, 5.4%) exceeding 5.0 percent....page 21**
- **Initial claims declined 20.3 percent from April to May 2004. Continued claims declined 16.3 percent from April to May and 13.9 percent from May 2003 to May 2004....page 22**

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### Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



### Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) determined that the most recent national recession began in March 2001 and reached its trough in November 2001. In announcing its decision in July 2002, NBER “did not conclude that economic conditions since that month have been favorable or that the economy has returned to operating at normal capacity. . . . The announcement of a trough simply marked the end of a declining phase and the start of a rising phase in the business cycle” (National Bureau of Economic Research, p. 1).

During the national and regional expansion, since November 2001, the varying effects of the national recession spared no state entirely. Many states (e.g., California, Connecticut, Kansas, and New Jersey) struggled with serious revenue shortfalls and difficult legislative choices. In January 2003, nine months after the official end of the national recession, only Wyoming and New Mexico showed state budget surpluses and demonstrated better employment and wage growth than the region.

In 2004 an outgrowth of increased state revenue, driven in large part by higher international energy prices, spurred construction of Wyoming schools, prisons, and local business parks. This economic expansion appears to bode well for Wyoming’s Construction industry. However, to compete for and finish these building projects in a timely and cost-effective way, Wyoming employers will require access to sufficient qualified labor. Their ability to secure this labor will be driven by the pace of the regional economic recovery and the higher rates of compensation offered by other industries within Wyoming.

We compare various measures of economic activity from March 2001 to May 2004 for the U.S., Wyoming, and selected states in the Intermountain West. Colorado and Utah are included in the comparison because their

larger populations are an obvious and often-tapped source of experienced and skilled labor for their smaller neighboring states. These two states, as well as Montana (though much smaller), have sizeable urban populations in close proximity to Wyoming and interstate access to neighboring states, facilitating the movement of labor and supplies across state lines. Idaho was included in this analysis because 2000 decennial Census commuting patterns identify it as a significant source of Wyoming labor, particularly for Teton County (U.S. Census Bureau).

New Mexico and Nevada were substituted for Nebraska and South Dakota (stalwarts in most regional comparisons published by Research & Planning). Given their comparatively higher rates of population and economic growth in the region, New Mexico and Nevada are more likely to compete for the skilled workers in Colorado and Utah than the states on Wyoming’s eastern border. Additionally, the largest population and economic centers of Nebraska and South Dakota (e.g., Lincoln, Omaha, and Sioux Falls) are more commonly associated with the labor markets of the Midwest than the Intermountain West.

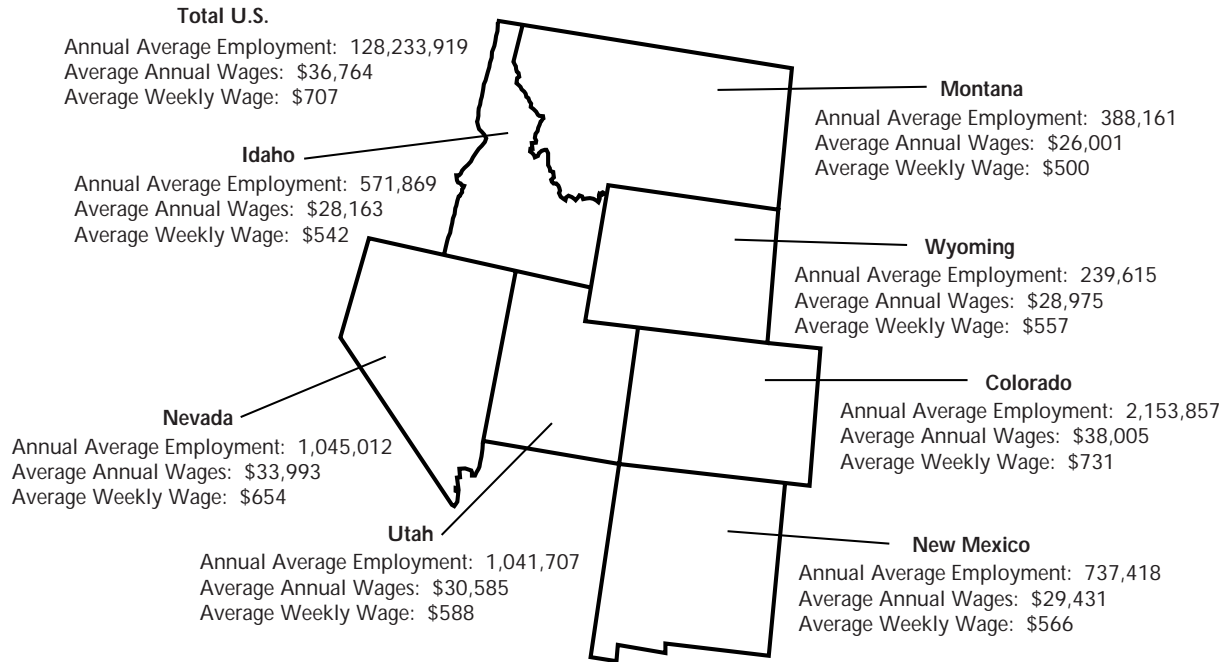
The Map (see page 4) shows state comparisons of 2002 employment and wage data including:

- average annual employment.
- average annual wage.
- average weekly wage.

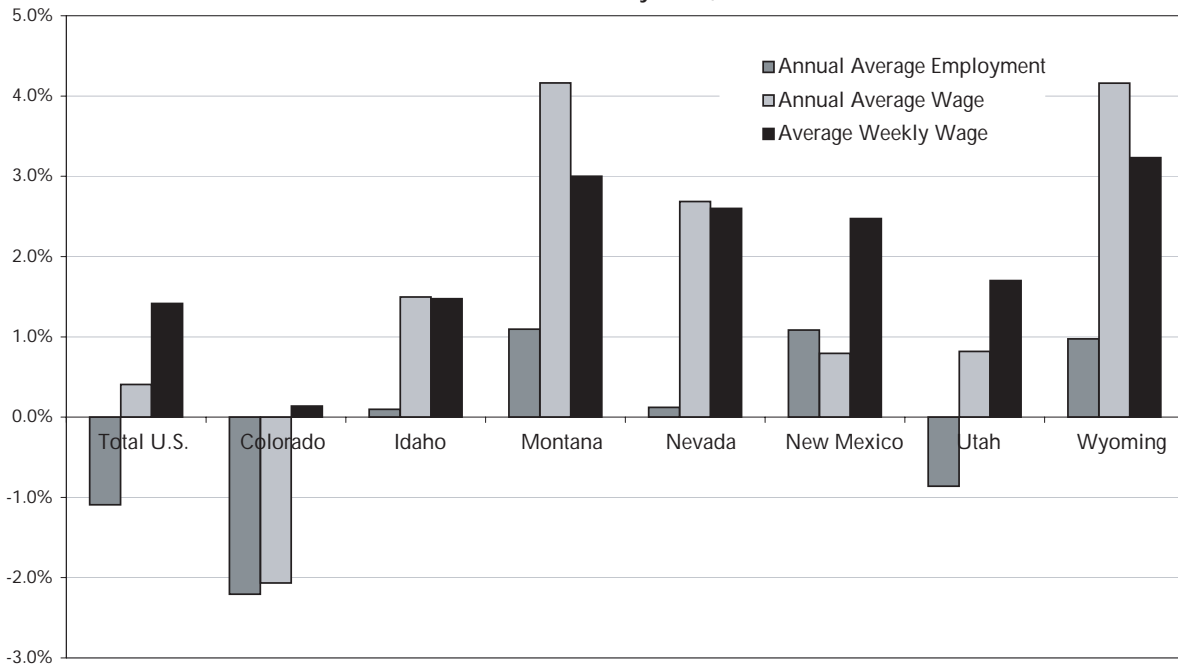
Average annual employment in the U.S. (see the Map and Figure 1, page 4) decreased by 1,401,881 jobs (-1.0%) in 2002. In the Intermountain West, Colorado lost 47,522 jobs (-2.2%) and Utah lost 8,967 jobs (-0.9%). Laid off workers in Colorado and Utah can be viewed as potential labor, particularly if these states recover from the national recession more slowly than their neighbors. In

(Text continued on page 5)

**Map: Annual Average Employment, Average Annual Wages, and Average Weekly Wage for Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Establishments, 2002**



**Figure 1: Percentage Change in Annual Average Employment, Annual Average Wages, and Average Weekly Wage for UI (Unemployment Insurance) and UCFE (Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees) Covered Establishments by State, 2001 to 2002**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

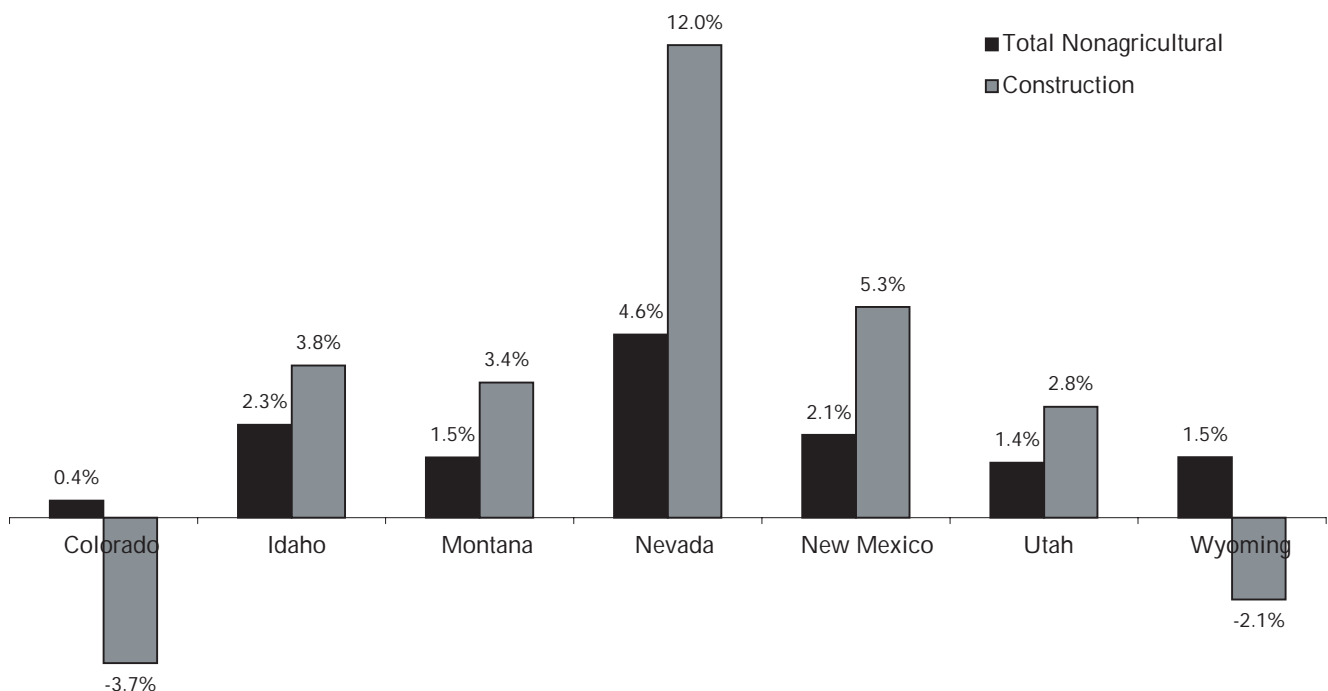
comparison, Wyoming gained an average of 2,337 jobs (1.0%), significantly higher than both Idaho (555 jobs or 0.1%) and Nevada (1,264 jobs or 0.1%). Wyoming was not alone in the region with a job gain. Montana and New Mexico's average annual employment grew by 1.1 percent. Outside of the Intermountain West, only Alaska (1.5%) showed average annual employment growth exceeding 1.0 percent.

In 2002 Wyoming's average weekly wage (\$557) reflected an increase of \$18 over its 2001 level. Nevada (\$654; change of \$17), Montana (\$500; change of \$15), and New Mexico (\$566; change of \$14) all experienced similar increases. Utah (\$588) and Idaho (\$542) showed lower over-the-year growth at \$10 and \$8, respectively, but maintained regionally competitive wages. Colorado's average weekly wage (\$731), the region's highest, increased by only \$1 during this period. While wage growth in Wyoming was a

positive indicator during 2001, Wyoming's average weekly wage still lags Nevada and New Mexico. In the regional competition for the skilled construction labor in Colorado or Utah over the next two years, Wyoming employers may find themselves having to compete against less seasonality in the Construction industry (Gallagher, 2002) and higher wages in Nevada or New Mexico.

As an additional regional comparison of wage trends, Figure 1 shows that Montana (3.2%) and Wyoming (3.3%) showed a higher percent change in average annual wages between 2001 and 2002 than other states in the Intermountain West. Wyoming's wage increased from \$28,048 to \$28,975. Montana's wage increased from \$25,195 to \$26,001. Nevada (2.6%), New Mexico (2.5%), and Utah (1.7%) showed wage growth above the U.S. level (1.5%). Colorado, experiencing some of the worst effects of the recession, showed only a 0.1 percent change in average

Figure 2: Percent Change in Construction and Total Nonagricultural Seasonally Adjusted Employment by State, May 2003 to May 2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

annual wage, though the wage still exceeded the U.S. wage (\$36,764) and led the region at \$38,005 in 2002.

Wyoming's recent state budget surplus made possible the school facilities construction efforts that are underway. However, we are beginning to see indications of strong regional competition for construction labor. For example, Nevada (12.0%) showed a much higher percent change in seasonally adjusted Construction employment than other states in the region (see Table 1, below and Figure 2, page 5). This increase potentially positions Nevada employers to draw some skilled labor from Utah, which grew by only 2.8 percent in the same industry between May 2003 and May 2004. New Mexico (5.3%), Idaho (3.8%), and Montana (3.4%) also demonstrated Construction employment growth within the region. Colorado (-3.7%) and Wyoming (-2.1%) showed a decreasing in percentage change in Construction employment over the year.

With the Mining industry expanding in Wyoming, particularly coal bed methane development, the attraction of higher wages and the transferability of skills draws workers from the lower-paying Construction and Services industries. Table 2 (see page 7) shows that 23.0 percent of the new individuals working in the Mining industry

previously worked in Services Providing industries, while 11.1 percent came from Construction. So, in addition to substantial regional competition for workers, the Construction industry in Wyoming must compete with other industries inside the state for labor.

Managing and reducing the underlying turnover within the Construction industry is the ongoing challenge of Wyoming employers. For example, the average annual number of jobs in the Construction industry in 2003 reported by the Current Employment Statistics program was 19,500. However, according to Wyoming Wage Records, the actual count of individuals who worked in Construction at any time during 2003 totaled 35,356 (See "Updated Mean Annual Earnings for Persons by Age, Gender, and Industry Tables," page 8). Managing employment turnover is probably Wyoming's best option for attracting and keeping a skilled workforce necessary for completing larger construction projects. Smaller projects in more rural areas will continue to pose additional challenges. Once again, compensation comparable to the Mining industry, including the offer of health or other benefits, may prove a key component for meeting labor needs.

With some variation among states, current economic data support the idea that the Intermountain West's overall employment

Table 1: Construction and Total Nonfarm Seasonally Adjusted Employment by State, May 2003 to May 2004

State	Construction			Total Nonagricultural		
	May 2003	May 2004	Percent Change	May 2003	May 2004	Percent Change
Colorado	149.4	143.9	-3.7%	2,148.9	2,158.2	0.4%
Idaho	36.4	37.8	3.8%	570.4	583.8	2.3%
Montana	23.4	24.2	3.4%	399.8	405.9	1.5%
Nevada	97.9	109.6	12.0%	1,079.5	1,129.5	4.6%
New Mexico	46.9	49.4	5.3%	773.2	789.4	2.1%
Utah	67.7	69.6	2.8%	1,070.3	1,085.2	1.4%
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>248.7</b>	<b>252.5</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2: Average Number of New Workers in the Mining industry in 2001 by Prior Primary Industry

Prior Industry	New Workers	Percent of Total	Average Quarterly Wage in Mining	Average Quarterly Wage in Prior Industry
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,168</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$6,542</b>	<b>\$5,506</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>\$6,961</b>	<b>\$5,668</b>
Agriculture	14	0.4%	\$5,909	\$3,527
Construction	353	11.1%	\$6,672	\$5,258
Manufacturing	85	2.7%	\$8,327	\$7,713
<b>Services Providing</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>\$7,187</b>	<b>\$5,406</b>
<b>Outside Wyoming</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>\$6,211</b>	<b>Unknown</b>

Table prepared by Tony Glover, Senior Research Analyst

situation is recovering from the effects of the national recession. While Wyoming seems uniquely poised to take advantage of Colorado and Utah's generally weaker economic positions, particularly as employers in Wyoming's Construction industry seek to attract skilled labor from larger states to compete for public infrastructure projects, other states in the region seem equally well-positioned. As the pace of economic recovery begins to re-ignite the larger economic engines of New Mexico and Nevada, reinforce the secure advantages of higher wages offered by employers in Colorado and Utah, and strengthen the competition from Idaho and Montana, the window of opportunity for recruiting new workers to Wyoming will narrow. In the face of tremendous opportunities, Wyoming's Construction industry also faces serious intrastate competition for labor from a growing and higher-paying Mining industry. Together, these forces may act as a damper on Wyoming's ability to meet construction demands.

#### *Manager's Note:*

*General questions of adequate labor supply have concerned Wyoming employers and policy makers for several years. In 1997, the Casper Star-Tribune reported that "the labor force has been shrinking at a low but steady*

*rate for several months" ("Unemployment," 1997, p. A1). Since that time, many press reports have lamented the exodus of Wyoming's youth. In May 2000, general observations had given way to more targeted inquiries by the state. Research & Planning provided data to the Legislative Service Office for its report on turnover and retention among technology staff, highway patrol officers, correctional officers, and family service caseworkers. (Wyoming Legislative Service Office).*

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- Gallagher, T. (2002). Introduction and selected findings. In Murray, S (Ed.), *Market Dynamics From Administrative Records* (pp. 1-4). Retrieved June 21, 2004, from [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w\\_r\\_research/MarketDynamics1202.pdf](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/w_r_research/MarketDynamics1202.pdf)
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(Text continued on page 16)

## Updated Mean Annual Earnings by Age, Gender, and Industry Tables

by: *Sylvia D. Jones, Research and Statistical Analyst*

We recently updated a series of tables on the Wyoming Labor Market Information website. These updated tables show annual earnings in Wyoming by age and gender for the years 1994 through 2003. Earnings figures and industry classifications are based on Unemployment

Insurance (UI) Wage Records and represent a count of individuals working a job in Wyoming at any time during a quarter. For instance, if one individual worked three different jobs in one quarter, he or she would have three associated wage records. We are presenting the Construction industry table

**Table 1: Wyoming Mean Earnings by Age and Gender for the Construction Industry, 2003**

Gender	Age Group	Number	Age %	Gender %	Average Wage \$
Females	< 20	164	5.8		4,251
	20 - 24	340	12.1		10,382
	25 - 34	533	19.0		13,796
	35 - 44	760	27.1		18,367
	45 - 54	638	22.7		20,528
	55 - 64	287	10.2		19,659
	> 65	83	3.0		10,812
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,805</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Males	< 20	1,284	6.2		5,741
	20 - 24	3,044	14.6		14,387
	25 - 34	5,128	24.6		22,448
	35 - 44	4,828	23.1		27,273
	45 - 54	4,342	20.8		31,983
	55 - 64	1,721	8.3		30,296
	> 65	510	2.4		19,334
	Unknown	1	0.0		15,083
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,858</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>23,916</b>
<b>NA</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>11,693</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>8,965</b>
<b>Total</b>	< 20	1,448	4.1		5,572
	20 - 24	3,384	9.6		13,985
	25 - 34	5,661	16.0		21,633
	35 - 44	5,588	15.8		26,062
	45 - 54	4,980	14.1		30,515
	55 - 64	2,008	5.7		28,776
	> 65	593	1.7		18,141
	Unknown	11,694	33.1		8,965
<b>Total</b>		<b>35,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,352</b>

Note: Persons working at any time during the year.

NA represents segment of the population without a Wyoming Driver's License.

Unknown age are those with a birth date less than 12 years prior to the year of work.



(see Table 1, page 8) as well as a table showing the total for all industries (see Table 2) as examples.

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) was used to define industry in the updated tables. Earlier versions of these tables used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. Age and gender categories are derived from other administrative databases such as Driver's

License and Unemployment Insurance Claims files.

All of the industries and years can be accessed on our website at <<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/wfdemog/toc3.htm>>.



**Table 2: Wyoming Mean Earnings by Age and Gender for All Industries, 2003**

Gender	Age Group	Number	Age %	Gender %	Average Wage \$
Females	< 20	11,052	8.9		3,734
	20 - 24	15,046	12.1		9,042
	25 - 34	24,184	19.4		16,221
	35 - 44	27,337	21.9		20,964
	45 - 54	29,539	23.7		24,366
	55 - 64	13,673	11.0		21,824
	> 65	3,725	3.0		11,166
	Unknown	13	0.0		228,441
	<b>Total</b>		<b>124,569</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38.6</b>
Males	< 20	11,414	8.4		4,317
	20 - 24	15,827	11.6		13,689
	25 - 34	28,864	21.1		26,209
	35 - 44	28,962	21.2		36,889
	45 - 54	30,894	22.6		44,443
	55 - 64	15,832	11.6		41,039
	> 65	4,727	3.5		20,820
	Unknown	16	0.0		48,764
	<b>Total</b>		<b>136,536</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42.4</b>
<b>NA</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>61,206</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>7,397</b>
<b>Total</b>	< 20	22,466	7.0		4,030
	20 - 24	30,873	9.6		11,424
	25 - 34	53,048	16.5		21,656
	35 - 44	56,299	17.5		29,157
	45 - 54	60,433	18.7		34,630
	55 - 64	29,505	9.2		32,135
	> 65	8,452	2.6		16,565
	Unknown	61,235	19.0		7,455
	<b>Total</b>		<b>322,311</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Persons working at any time during the year.

NA represents segment of the population without a Wyoming Driver's License.

Unknown age are those with a birth date less than 12 years prior to the year of work.

## Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 2003: Wyoming Pulls Out of Economic Slowdown

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

tables by: Nancy Brennan, Economist

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment increased by 4,078 jobs or 1.7 percent during fourth quarter 2003 compared to fourth quarter 2002. Fourth quarter's employment increase is just below the five-year average growth rate of 1.9 percent (see Table 1). Total payroll increased by \$107.2 million or 5.8 percent, matching

its five-year average. Average weekly wage increased by \$24 or 4.1 percent, marginally higher than its five-year average (3.8%). Additionally, employment increased in 15 of Wyoming's 23 counties. Together, these facts suggest that Wyoming has recovered from the economic slowdown that prevailed during much of 2002 and 2003 (see Figure).

Table 1: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter, 1999 to 2003

	Average Monthly Employment		Total Wages		Average Weekly Wage	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
99Q4	2.6	-2.4	6.5	5.4	3.9	8.1
00Q4	2.2	-2.6	7.8	9.5	5.5	12.4
01Q4	2.8	-3.1	6.4	6.6	3.4	10.0
02Q4	0.4	-3.3	2.4	5.4	2.0	8.9
03Q4	1.7	-2.8	5.8	6.5	4.1	9.5
5-Year Average for Q4	1.9	-2.8	5.8	6.7	3.8	9.8

Figure: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages For First Quarter 2002 to Fourth Quarter 2003

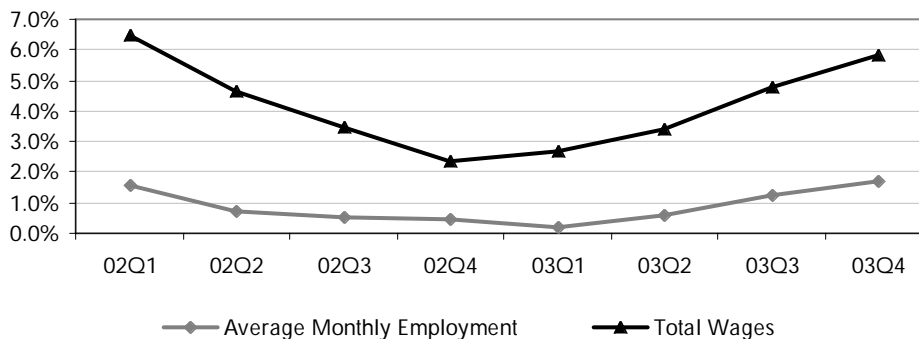


Table 2 shows that employment grew faster in fourth quarter 2003 than at any other time during 2002 or 2003. The Figure (see page 10) shows that payroll growth (5.8% during fourth quarter) continues to increase from the trough in fourth quarter 2002. This pattern of employment growth has been seen in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) data for a few months (see tables on page 18).

**Table 2: Over-the-Year Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2002 to Fourth Quarter 2003**

	Average Monthly Employment	Total Wages
02Q1	1.5%	6.5%
02Q2	0.7%	4.7%
02Q3	0.5%	3.1%
02Q4	0.4%	2.4%
03Q1	0.2%	2.6%
03Q2	0.6%	3.4%
03Q3	1.1%	4.5%
03Q4	1.7%	5.8%

### Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

Each year, approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they have been assigned to the correct industry category (e.g., Mining, Construction, Manufacturing) based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS; U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). If an employer has changed primary business activity, a different NAICS code is assigned to reflect that change. Research staff also review employers' NAICS codes if the business is sold, becomes incorporated, or otherwise changes ownership. In this manner, Research & Planning continuously ensures that employers are assigned to the correct

industry category. However, such changes also make it difficult for data users to make direct comparisons across years. Sometimes, large employers may move from one NAICS sector to another.

Table 3 (see page 12) shows that Mining (NAICS 21), Health Care & Social Assistance (NAICS 62), Accommodation & Food Services (NAICS 72), Administrative & Waste Services (NAICS 56), and Transportation & Warehousing (NAICS 48-49) created the most jobs in fourth quarter.

Mining added 1,645 jobs or 9.4 percent during fourth quarter. The vast majority of job gains was in support activities for mining and is likely related to an increase in natural gas drilling activity around the state.

Health Care & Social Assistance added 791 jobs or 4.4 percent during fourth quarter. Ambulatory health care services (the industry which includes doctors' offices and clinics) grew at a rapid pace, adding 400 jobs. Jobs were also added in nursing & residential care facilities (100 jobs) and social assistance (250 jobs). However, employment was essentially unchanged in private hospitals.

Employment in Accommodation & Food Services grew by 509 jobs or 2.0 percent during fourth quarter.

Administrative & Waste Services added 318 jobs or 4.4 percent. Employment services (including temporary help agencies) grew by 300 jobs.

Employment in Transportation & Warehousing grew by 304 jobs or 4.5 percent in fourth quarter. Practically all of the increase was in warehousing & storage. Employment fell slightly in both truck transportation and air transportation.

Professional & Technical Services saw an employment decline of 108 jobs or 1.4

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

Industry Title and NAICS <sup>a</sup> Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	%	Fourth Quarter		Change	%
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amt.		2002	2003	Amt.	
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>239,105</b>	<b>243,183</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>\$1,839,183,069</b>	<b>\$1,946,412,193</b>	<b>\$107,229,124</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>\$592</b>	<b>\$616</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Total Private (11-99)</b>	<b>179,858</b>	<b>183,885</b>	<b>4,027</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>\$1,372,217,118</b>	<b>\$1,460,150,327</b>	<b>\$87,933,209</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>\$587</b>	<b>\$611</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Agriculture (11)	2,251	2,208	-43	-1.9	\$14,303,475	\$14,704,611	\$401,136	2.8	\$489	\$512	\$23	4.8
Mining (21)	17,501	19,146	1,645	9.4	\$251,884,768	\$282,904,202	\$31,019,434	12.3	\$1,107	\$1,137	\$29	2.7
Utilities (22)	2,116	2,144	29	1.4	\$34,924,177	\$37,026,304	\$2,102,127	6.0	\$1,270	\$1,328	\$58	4.6
Construction (23)	19,836	20,094	258	1.3	\$174,185,889	\$183,986,229	\$9,800,340	5.6	\$675	\$704	\$29	4.3
Manufacturing (31-33)	9,672	9,666	-6	-0.1	\$87,868,965	\$93,057,637	\$5,188,672	5.9	\$699	\$741	\$42	6.0
Wholesale Trade (42)	7,022	7,071	49	0.7	\$68,114,112	\$73,352,777	\$5,238,665	7.7	\$746	\$798	\$52	6.9
Retail Trade (44-45)	30,404	30,229	-174	-0.6	\$152,777,227	\$157,783,045	\$5,005,818	3.3	\$387	\$402	\$15	3.9
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	6,774	7,077	304	4.5	\$55,094,835	\$59,750,281	\$4,655,446	8.4	\$626	\$649	\$24	3.8
Information (51)	4,067	4,169	102	2.5	\$30,892,942	\$31,574,346	\$681,404	2.2	\$584	\$583	-\$2	-0.3
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,610	6,866	256	3.9	\$61,626,384	\$65,976,467	\$4,350,083	7.1	\$717	\$739	\$22	3.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,347	3,442	94	2.8	\$22,973,415	\$23,672,389	\$698,974	3.0	\$528	\$529	\$1	0.2
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,607	7,499	-108	-1.4	\$88,816,870	\$82,316,878	-\$6,499,992	-7.3	\$898	\$844	-\$54	-6.0
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	693	522	-171	-24.7	\$13,110,317	\$17,592,170	\$4,481,853	34.2	\$1,455	\$2,591	\$1,136	78.1
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	7,236	7,554	318	4.4	\$37,335,667	\$41,600,261	\$4,264,594	11.4	\$397	\$424	\$27	6.7
Educational Services (61)	1,036	1,160	124	12.0	\$5,723,457	\$6,630,643	\$907,186	15.9	\$425	\$440	\$15	3.5
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	18,109	18,900	791	4.4	\$146,351,198	\$156,444,559	\$10,093,361	6.9	\$622	\$637	\$15	2.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	2,249	2,313	64	2.8	\$8,149,644	\$8,883,252	\$733,608	9.0	\$279	\$295	\$17	6.0
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	25,891	26,400	509	2.0	\$76,357,124	\$80,605,888	\$4,248,764	5.6	\$227	\$235	\$8	3.5
Other Services (81)	7,438	7,424	-15	-0.2	\$41,726,652	\$42,285,120	\$558,468	1.3	\$432	\$438	\$7	1.5
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>59,247</b>	<b>59,299</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>\$466,965,951</b>	<b>\$486,261,866</b>	<b>\$19,295,915</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>\$606</b>	<b>\$631</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Federal Government	7,651	7,370	-280	-3.7	\$86,758,881	\$87,708,753	\$949,872	1.1	\$72	\$95	\$23	4.9
State Government	12,513	12,714	201	1.6	\$112,132,546	\$118,985,005	\$6,852,459	6.1	\$689	\$720	\$31	4.4
Local Government	39,084	39,215	131	0.3	\$268,074,524	\$279,568,108	\$11,493,584	4.3	\$528	\$548	\$21	3.9

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

percent. Modest job losses occurred in accounting & payroll services; architectural, engineering & related services; and scientific research & development services.

Job losses in Retail Trade (-174 jobs or -0.6%) were largely the result of reclassification of firms to other industries (non-economic code changes). Similarly, Real Estate & Rental & Leasing and Management of Companies & Enterprises were affected by code changes rather than economic events.

Although Table 3 shows Federal Government employment declining by 280 jobs or 3.7 percent, the actual decrease is much smaller. A problem was discovered in Federal Government employment reporting for December. This data inaccuracy was corrected for 2004, but the 2003 figures remain inflated, thus exaggerating the over-

the-year decline. Because of the large federal employment in Park and Teton counties, these counties were disproportionately affected. Employment reports for federal government agencies are supplied to R&P by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Statewide total payroll increased by \$107.2 million or 5.8 percent. Mining was by far the largest contributor to this gain, increasing by 31.0 million or 12.3 percent. Some other industries with large gains in total payroll in fourth quarter were Local Government (including public schools and hospitals--\$11.5 million or 4.3%), Health Care & Social Assistance (\$10.0 million or 6.9%), and Construction (\$9.8 million or 5.6%).

Statewide average weekly wage increased by \$24 or 4.1 percent in fourth quarter.

Wages increased in all but two industries. Information's average weekly wage decreased by \$2 or 0.3 percent and Professional & Technical Services' wage fell by \$54 or 6.0 percent.

### Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 4, employment increased in 15 of Wyoming's 23 counties during fourth quarter. In an effort to increase

data quality, the Covered Employment and Wages unit has continued to contact many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within appropriate counties. This data quality effort has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation, and corresponding employment increases in many counties throughout the state. While the long-run result will be higher-quality data, initially some of the

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

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amount	%	2002	2003	Amt.	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>239,105</b>	<b>243,183</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>\$1,839,183,069</b>	<b>\$1,946,412,193</b>	<b>\$107,229,124</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>\$592</b>	<b>\$616</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>36,166</b>	<b>36,405</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>\$238,556,268</b>	<b>\$245,728,816</b>	<b>\$7,172,548</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>\$507</b>	<b>\$519</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Big Horn	4,174	4,302	128	3.1	29,525,899	31,765,549	2,239,650	7.6	544	568	24	4.4
Fremont	14,589	14,555	-34	-0.2	92,920,707	96,148,753	3,228,046	3.5	490	508	18	3.7
Hot Springs	1,948	1,837	-111	-5.7	11,905,358	11,036,483	-868,875	-7.3	470	462	-8	-1.7
Park	11,850	12,008	158	1.3	79,471,095	81,128,056	1,656,961	2.1	516	520	4	0.7
Washakie	3,606	3,703	97	2.7	24,733,209	25,649,975	916,766	3.7	528	533	5	1.0
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>39,394</b>	<b>39,716</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>\$328,153,577</b>	<b>\$341,171,648</b>	<b>\$13,018,071</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>\$641</b>	<b>\$661</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Campbell	20,671	20,914	243	1.2	203,507,361	213,957,246	10,449,885	5.1	757	787	30	3.9
Crook	1,959	1,990	31	1.6	12,856,926	13,112,119	255,193	2.0	505	507	2	0.4
Johnson	2,808	2,907	99	3.5	16,601,263	17,995,134	1,393,871	8.4	455	476	21	4.7
Sheridan	11,719	11,717	-2	0.0	80,685,239	81,699,955	1,014,716	1.3	530	536	7	1.3
Weston	2,236	2,188	-49	-2.2	14,502,788	14,407,194	-95,594	-0.7	499	507	8	1.6
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>50,879</b>	<b>53,100</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>\$432,044,794</b>	<b>\$481,640,071</b>	<b>\$49,595,277</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>\$653</b>	<b>\$698</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Lincoln	5,238	6,169	931	17.8	37,566,222	51,351,555	13,785,333	36.7	552	640	89	16.1
Sublette	2,538	2,806	268	10.5	19,352,594	23,275,698	3,923,104	20.3	587	638	52	8.8
Sweetwater	18,748	19,911	1163	6.2	175,203,144	197,056,659	21,853,515	12.5	719	761	42	5.9
Teton	15,341	15,128	-213	-1.4	132,993,223	140,418,144	7,424,921	5.6	667	714	47	7.1
Uinta	9,014	9,087	73	0.8	66,929,611	69,538,015	2,608,404	3.9	571	589	17	3.1
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>61,798</b>	<b>63,245</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>\$445,405,428</b>	<b>\$466,944,995</b>	<b>\$21,539,567</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>\$554</b>	<b>\$568</b>	<b>\$14</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Albany	14,910	15,395	485	3.3	101,004,849	108,878,728	7,873,879	7.8	521	544	23	4.4
Goshen	4,277	4,175	-102	-2.4	24,055,710	23,957,820	-97,890	-0.4	433	441	9	2.0
Laramie	38,569	39,610	1,041	2.7	294,638,264	307,355,119	12,716,855	4.3	588	597	9	1.6
Niobrara	776	769	-7	-0.9	4,114,240	4,159,517	45,277	1.1	408	416	8	2.0
Platte	3,265	3,296	31	1.0	21,592,365	22,593,811	1,001,446	4.6	509	527	19	3.6
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>43,522</b>	<b>44,794</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>\$325,316,458</b>	<b>\$355,805,038</b>	<b>\$30,488,580</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>\$575</b>	<b>\$611</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Carbon	6,283	6,185	-98	-1.6	41,974,667	41,771,887	-202,780	-0.5	514	519	6	1.1
Converse	4,212	4,505	293	6.9	28,995,896	35,112,954	6,117,058	21.1	530	600	70	13.2
Natrona	33,027	34,104	1,078	3.3	254,345,895	278,920,197	24,574,302	9.7	592	629	37	6.2
Nonclassified <sup>a</sup>	7,347	5,922	-1,425	-19.4	\$69,706,544	\$55,121,625	-\$14,584,919	-20.9	\$730	\$716	-\$14	-1.9

<sup>a</sup>The employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

employment increases at the county level may simply be the result of more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs in the counties.

Sweetwater County led the state by adding 1,163 jobs (6.2%) during fourth quarter. Significant job gains were seen in Mining (including oil & gas), Construction, and Accommodation & Food Services. Government employment decreased slightly.

Lincoln County employment grew by 17.8 percent (931 jobs) during fourth quarter. As in previous quarters, the largest job gains were found in Mining and Construction. Employment was stable in most other industries.

Albany County added 485 jobs or 3.3 percent during fourth quarter. Job gains

were seen across many industries, but were most pronounced in State Government, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Accommodations & Food Services.

Employment fell by 213 jobs or 1.4 percent in Teton County. Job losses in Construction and Federal Government (see discussion on page 12) were partially offset by gains in Accommodations & Food Services.

Table 5 shows that Natrona County added 1,078 jobs or 3.3 percent during fourth quarter. Mining (including oil & gas) produced the largest number of new jobs (651 jobs or 32.0%). Construction (219 jobs or 10.2%) and Health Care & Social Assistance (186 jobs or 4.6%) also grew rapidly. The job losses in Wholesale Trade were the result of reclassifications to other

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

Industry Title and NAICS <sup>a</sup> Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter 2002	2003	Change No.	%	Fourth Quarter 2002	2003	Change Amount	%	Fourth Quarter 2002	2003	Change Amt.	%
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>33,027</b>	<b>34,104</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>\$254,345,895</b>	<b>\$278,920,197</b>	<b>\$24,574,302</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>\$592</b>	<b>\$629</b>	<b>\$37</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Total Private (11-99)	27,663	28,807	1,145	4.1	\$209,508,243	\$232,811,086	\$23,302,843	11.1	\$583	\$622	\$39	6.7
Agriculture (11)	93	101	8	8.2	\$484,080	\$541,208	\$57,128	11.8	\$399	\$412	\$13	3.3
Mining (21)	2,036	2,687	651	32.0	\$27,152,066	\$35,516,220	\$8,364,154	30.8	\$1,026	\$1,017	-\$9	-0.9
Utilities (22)	88	94	6	6.8	\$1,625,371	\$1,797,569	\$172,198	10.6	\$1,421	\$1,471	\$50	3.5
Construction (23)	2,143	2,361	219	10.2	\$18,511,758	\$21,042,187	\$2,530,429	13.7	\$665	\$685	\$21	3.1
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,537	1,575	38	2.5	\$12,447,880	\$14,382,934	\$1,935,054	15.5	\$623	\$702	\$79	12.7
Wholesale Trade (42)	2,313	2,167	-147	-6.3	\$23,347,862	\$23,309,328	-\$38,534	-0.2	\$776	\$828	\$51	6.6
Retail Trade (44-45)	4,771	4,757	-14	-0.3	\$24,668,762	\$26,941,139	\$2,272,377	9.2	\$398	\$436	\$38	9.5
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	917	922	6	0.6	\$8,094,407	\$8,522,336	\$427,929	5.3	\$679	\$711	\$32	4.6
Information (51)	554	535	-19	-3.4	\$3,890,658	\$3,708,555	-\$182,103	-4.7	\$540	\$533	-\$7	-1.3
Finance & Insurance (52)	971	1,018	47	4.8	\$9,628,181	\$9,973,009	\$344,828	3.6	\$763	\$754	-\$9	-1.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	807	808	0	0.0	\$5,588,764	\$6,348,759	\$759,995	13.6	\$532	\$605	\$72	13.6
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,156	1,171	15	1.3	\$13,137,222	\$14,286,644	\$1,149,422	8.7	\$874	\$939	\$65	7.4
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	26	12	-14	-54.5	\$276,653	\$213,888	-\$62,765	-22.7	\$829	\$1,410	\$581	70.1
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	1,699	1,747	48	2.8	\$7,295,702	\$7,966,170	\$670,468	9.2	\$330	\$351	\$20	6.2
Educational Services (61)	89	109	21	23.3	\$333,338	\$479,100	\$145,762	43.7	\$289	\$337	\$48	16.6
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	4,094	4,280	186	4.6	\$36,975,150	\$40,110,771	\$3,135,621	8.5	\$695	\$721	\$26	3.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	331	362	32	9.6	\$930,081	\$1,212,616	\$282,535	30.4	\$216	\$257	\$41	19.0
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	2,786	2,832	46	1.7	\$7,188,537	\$7,783,328	\$594,791	8.3	\$198	\$211	\$13	6.5
Other Services (81)	1,253	1,268	16	1.3	\$7,931,771	\$8,675,325	\$743,554	9.4	\$487	\$526	\$39	8.0
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>5,297</b>	<b>-67</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>\$44,837,652</b>	<b>\$46,109,111</b>	<b>\$1,271,459</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>\$643</b>	<b>\$670</b>	<b>\$27</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Federal Government	710	701	-9	-1.3	\$10,015,893	\$9,924,773	-\$91,120	-0.9	1,085	1,089	4	0.4
State Government	715	702	-12	-1.7	\$6,549,972	\$6,482,269	-\$67,703	-1.0	705	710	5	0.7
Local Government	3,939	3,894	-46	-1.2	\$28,271,787	\$29,702,069	\$1,430,282	5.1	552	587	35	6.3

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

industries, rather than an economic event. Total payroll increased by \$24.5 million or 9.7 percent. The largest contributors to this increase were Mining (\$8.4 million or 30.8%), Health Care & Social Assistance (\$3.1 million or 8.5%), and Construction (\$2.5 million or 13.7%). Average weekly wage increased by \$37 or 6.2 percent.

Table 6 shows that employment increased by 1,041 jobs or 2.7 percent in Laramie County. Health Care & Social Assistance led job creation with a net gain of 397 jobs (15.8%). Other industries with significant growth included Transportation & Warehousing (288 jobs or 25.8%), Construction (120 jobs or 4.9%), Administrative & Waste Services (107 jobs or 5.7%), and Accommodation & Food Services (107 jobs or 2.7%). Job losses in Retail Trade and Management of Companies &

Enterprises were the result of reclassifications to other industries. Total payroll increased by \$12.7 million or 4.3 percent. The largest contributors to this increase were Health Care & Social Assistance (\$3.3 million or 14.2%) and Local Government (\$2.1 million or 4.9%).

### References

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



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

Industry Title and NAICS <sup>a</sup> Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	%	Fourth Quarter		Change	
	2002	2003	No.	%	2002	2003	Amount		2002	2003	Amt.	%
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>38,569</b>	<b>39,610</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>\$294,638,264</b>	<b>\$307,355,119</b>	<b>\$12,716,855</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>\$588</b>	<b>\$597</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Total Private (11-99)</b>	<b>26,458</b>	<b>27,460</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>\$186,033,603</b>	<b>\$193,823,890</b>	<b>\$7,790,287</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>\$541</b>	<b>\$543</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Agriculture (11)	167	164	-3	-1.6	\$990,859	\$936,058	-\$54,801	-5.5	\$456	\$438	-18	-4.0
Mining (21)	81	76	-5	-6.2	\$814,966	\$824,373	\$9,407	1.2	\$774	\$834	60	7.8
Utilities (22)	115	115		-0.3	\$1,630,186	\$1,655,425	\$25,239	1.5	\$1,090	\$1,111	20	1.8
Construction (23)	2,459	2,579	120	4.9	\$20,417,297	\$22,180,309	\$1,763,012	8.6	\$639	\$661	23	3.6
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,511	1,551	40	2.7	\$13,882,704	\$15,842,543	\$1,959,839	14.1	\$707	\$786	79	11.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	703	708	4	0.6	\$6,838,366	\$7,090,340	\$251,974	3.7	\$748	\$771	23	3.0
Retail Trade (44-45)	5,836	5,712	-124	-2.1	\$32,487,017	\$31,751,149	-\$735,868	-2.3	\$428	\$428	-1	-0.1
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	1,117	1,404	288	25.8	\$8,142,368	\$10,121,444	\$1,979,076	24.3	\$561	\$554	-6	-1.2
Information (51)	1,018	1,050	31	3.1	\$9,839,420	\$10,178,951	\$339,531	3.5	\$743	\$746	3	0.4
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,504	1,567	63	4.2	\$14,093,897	\$14,995,434	\$901,537	6.4	\$721	\$736	15	2.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	372	455	83	22.3	\$2,558,133	\$3,138,566	\$580,433	22.7	\$529	\$530	2	0.3
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,260	1,359	99	7.9	\$19,249,295	\$16,773,438	-\$2,475,857	-12.9	\$1,175	\$949	-226	-19.2
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	300	159	-141	-47.1	\$2,689,102	\$1,470,702	-\$1,218,400	-45.3	\$690	\$713	23	3.4
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	1,863	1,970	107	5.7	\$8,961,443	\$9,842,317	\$880,874	9.8	\$370	\$384	14	3.9
Educational Services (61)	97	109	12	12.8	\$319,992	\$497,941	\$177,949	55.6	\$255	\$351	97	38.0
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	2,514	2,911	397	15.8	\$23,591,291	\$26,933,114	\$3,341,823	14.2	\$722	\$712	-10	-1.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	285	235	-49	-17.3	\$734,418	\$752,077	\$17,659	2.4	\$198	\$246	47	23.9
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	3,963	4,070	107	2.7	\$11,056,537	\$11,397,724	\$341,187	3.1	\$215	\$215	1	0.4
Other Services (81)	1,294	1,265	-28	-2.2	\$7,736,312	\$7,441,985	-\$294,327	-3.8	\$460	\$452	-8	-1.7
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>12,150</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>\$108,604,661</b>	<b>\$113,531,229</b>	<b>\$4,926,568</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>\$690</b>	<b>\$719</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Federal Government	2,549	2,628	79	3.1	\$29,536,547	\$31,529,313	\$1,992,766	6.7	\$891	\$923	32	3.6
State Government	3,781	3,779	-1	0.0	\$37,080,363	\$37,943,842	\$863,479	2.3	\$754	\$772	18	2.4
Local Government	5,781	5,743	-39	-0.7	\$41,987,751	\$44,058,074	\$2,070,323	4.9	\$559	\$590	31	5.6

<sup>a</sup>North American Industry Classification System.

## Wyoming Unemployment Inches Up in May

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched upward from 3.4 percent in April to 3.7 percent in May. It remains below its May 2003 level of 4.4 percent and the U.S. jobless rate of 5.6 percent. Over-the-year job growth continued at a healthy pace as the state added 4,200 jobs or 1.7 percent. U.S. job growth, while still lower than Wyoming, increased to 1.1 percent, its highest level since February 2001.

From April to May, Wyoming added 7,200 jobs or 2.9 percent, which is about the normal seasonal increase. Warmer weather and the start of the summer tourist season prompted job gains in Natural Resources & Mining (600 jobs or 3.1%), Construction (1,400 jobs or 7.7%), Retail Trade (600 jobs or 2.1%), and Leisure & Hospitality (2,900 jobs or 10.5%).

From May 2003, Wyoming's economy grew by 4,200 jobs or 1.7 percent. Natural Resources & Mining (the industry which includes oil & gas) again led the state in

job creation, adding 2,000 jobs or 11.2 percent. Other notable job gains occurred in Wholesale Trade (300 jobs or 4.3%), Financial Activities (500 jobs or 5.0%), Educational & Health Services (700 jobs or 3.3%), Leisure & Hospitality (400 jobs or 1.3%), and Government (800 jobs or 1.2%). Employment fell slightly in Construction (-200 jobs or -1.0%), Information (-100 jobs or -2.4%), and Other Services (-200 jobs or -2.1%).

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, unemployment rates were generally stable or down slightly from April to May. The largest decrease occurred in Teton County, where unemployment fell from 6.6 percent in April to 4.3 percent in May. Fremont County posted the highest unemployment rate in May (5.4%). It was followed by Lincoln and Platte counties (both 4.4%). The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara (1.5%), Johnson (1.8%), and Albany (1.9%) counties.



(Continued from page 7)

Unemployment rate - and labor force - decline. (1997, October 23). *Casper Star-Tribune*, p. A1.

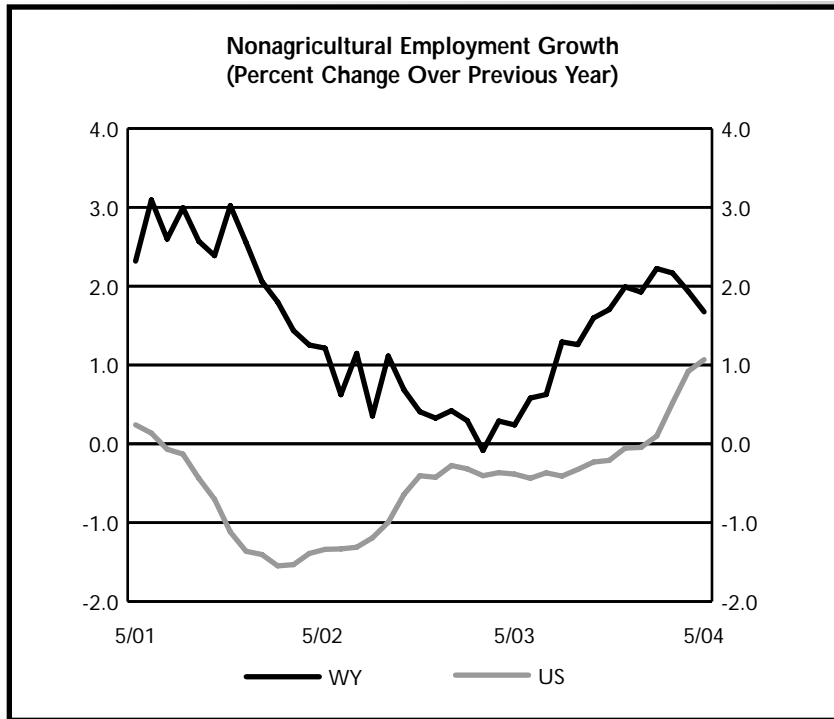
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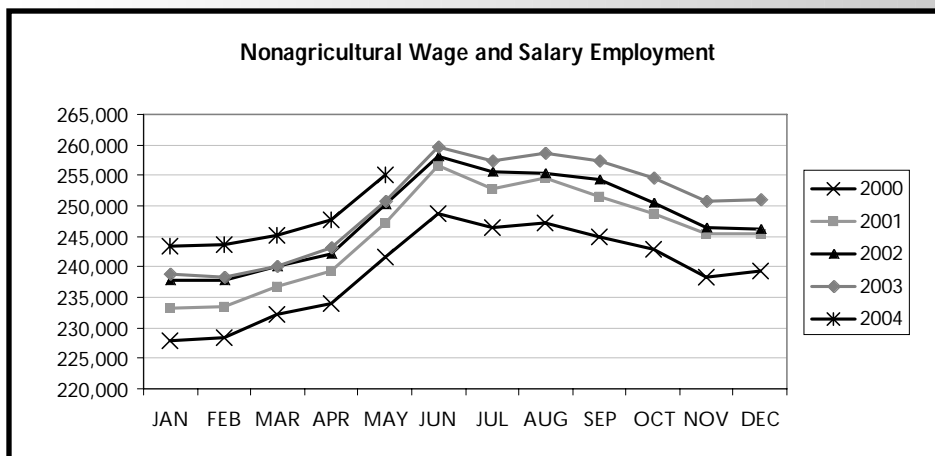
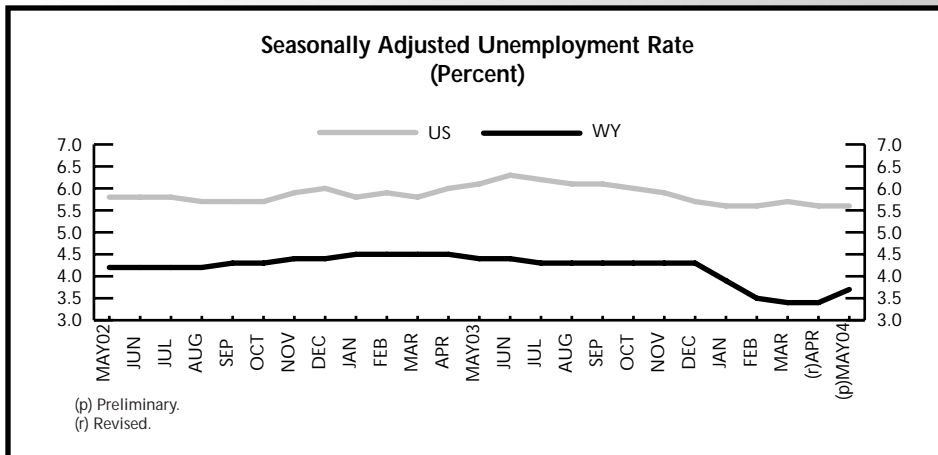






### State Unemployment Rates May 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.8
District of Columbia	7.5
Alaska	7.3
Oregon	6.8
Michigan	6.5
Illinois	6.4
South Carolina	6.3
California	6.2
Louisiana	6.1
Washington	6.1
Alabama	5.9
Texas	5.9
Arkansas	5.8
New York	5.8
Ohio	5.6
Rhode Island	5.6
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Mississippi	5.5
New Mexico	5.5
Kentucky	5.4
North Carolina	5.3
Massachusetts	5.2
West Virginia	5.2
Arizona	5.1
Indiana	5.1
Missouri	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Wisconsin	5.1
Colorado	4.9
New Jersey	4.9
Tennessee	4.8
Kansas	4.7
Montana	4.7
Connecticut	4.6
Idaho	4.6
Utah	4.6
Florida	4.5
Iowa	4.3
Minnesota	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Maine	4.1
Nevada	4.1
Maryland	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Georgia	3.9
Delaware	3.7
Nebraska	3.7
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Vermont	3.5
South Dakota	3.4
Virginia	3.4
North Dakota	3.2
Hawaii	3.0



# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

*Natural Resources & Mining (the industry which includes oil & gas) again led the state in job creation, adding 2,000 jobs or 11.2 percent.*

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment			LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
			Apr04 May03 May04						Apr04 May03 May04		
	May04(p)	Apr04(r)	May03(b)	May04	May04		May04(p)	Apr04(r)	May03(b)	May04	May04
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>255.0</b>	<b>247.8</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>189.2</b>	<b>182.6</b>	<b>185.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	19.8	19.2	17.8	3.1	11.2	Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.8	2.5	2.7	12.0	3.7
Mining	19.7	19.2	17.7	2.6	11.3	Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.4	3.2	3.1	6.2	9.7	<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.3	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.5	8.3	8.4	2.4	1.2
Coal Mining	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	2.1	Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Support Activities for Mining	9.0	8.7	7.3	3.4	23.3	Retail Trade	5.4	5.3	5.5	1.9	-1.8
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	6.2	6.1	5.1	1.6	21.6	Information	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Construction	19.7	18.3	19.9	7.7	-1.0	Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Construction of Buildings	3.9	3.8	4.1	2.6	-4.9	Professional & Business Services	3.4	3.1	3.3	9.7	3.0
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	5.8	5.0	5.6	16.0	3.6	Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.0	9.5	10.2	5.3	-2.0	Leisure & Hospitality	4.5	4.4	4.2	2.3	7.1
Manufacturing	9.1	9.0	9.1	1.1	0.0	Other Services	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Durable Goods	4.9	4.8	4.9	2.1	0.0	<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Non-Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>206.4</b>	<b>201.3</b>	<b>204.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	State Government	3.9	3.8	3.9	2.6	0.0
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	48.4	47.7	48.2	1.5	0.4	Local Government	6.0	5.9	6.0	1.7	0.0
Wholesale Trade	7.2	7.2	6.9	0.0	4.3	<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>					
Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable Goods	4.2	4.1	4.1	2.4	2.4	<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Retail Trade	29.6	29.0	29.7	2.1	-0.3	<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.9	2.4	<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.5	2.4	2.6	4.2	-3.8	Natural Resources & Mining	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.7	21.7
Food & Beverage Stores	4.7	4.6	4.8	2.2	-2.1	Construction	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0
Grocery Stores	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-5.1	Manufacturing	1.6	1.5	1.5	6.7	6.7
Gasoline Stations	4.3	4.0	4.2	7.5	2.4	<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
General Merchandise Stores	5.8	5.6	5.9	3.6	-1.7	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.9	7.9	7.8	0.0	1.3
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.7	1.9	11.8	0.0	Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	11.6	11.5	11.6	0.9	0.0	Retail Trade	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0
Utilities	2.2	2.1	2.2	4.8	0.0	Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	9.4	9.4	9.4	0.0	0.0	Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Information	4.1	4.0	4.2	2.5	-2.4	Professional & Business Services	3.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	10.0
Financial Activities	10.6	10.5	10.1	1.0	5.0	Educational & Health Services	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3
Finance & Insurance	7.0	7.0	6.7	0.0	4.5	Leisure & Hospitality	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.9	5.9	Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	15.8	15.4	15.7	2.6	0.6	<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.6	7.6	7.3	0.0	4.1	Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.1	2.0	2.1	5.0	0.0	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	Local Government	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.7	0.0
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	7.7	7.3	7.9	5.5	-2.5	Local Education	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2
Educational & Health Services	21.7	21.4	21.0	1.4	3.3	Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.					
Educational	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0	(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.					
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.6	19.3	19.0	1.6	3.2						
Ambulatory Health Care	7.5	7.3	6.9	2.7	8.7						
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9						
Hospitals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0						
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.0	4.7						
Social Assistance	4.9	4.8	5.1	2.1	-3.9						
Leisure & Hospitality	30.6	27.7	30.2	10.5	1.3						
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.6	2.1	2.6	23.8	0.0						
Accommodation & Food Services	28.0	25.6	27.6	9.4	1.4						
Accommodation	10.4	8.7	10.2	19.5	2.0						
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.6	16.9	17.4	4.1	1.1						
Other Services	9.4	9.4	9.6	0.0	-2.1						
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2						
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>						
Federal Government	7.3	7.3	7.5	0.0	-2.7						
State Government	15.5	15.5	15.0	0.0	3.3						
State Govt. Education	6.2	6.3	5.7	-1.6	8.8						
Local Government	43.0	42.4	42.5	1.4	1.2						
Local Govt. Education	22.5	22.6	22.5	-0.4	0.0						
Hospitals	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8						

## Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	May04(p)	Apr04(r)	Apr04		May04
			May03(b)	May04	
<b>CAMPBELL COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6.1	6.1	5.8	0.0	5.2
Construction	1.8	1.7	1.9	5.9	-5.3
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.1	4.0	3.9	2.5	5.1
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0
Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-2.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	-14.3
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.8	4.8
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>TETON COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>-12.0</b>
Nat. Res., Mining & Construction	2.0	1.8	2.3	11.1	-13.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.6	2.3	2.2	13.0	18.2
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0
Educational & Health Services	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Leisure & Hospitality	4.9	4.4	4.9	11.4	0.0
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>

## State Unemployment Rates May 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.8
Alaska	7.1
District of Columbia	7.0
Oregon	6.5
Michigan	6.3
South Carolina	6.2
Washington	6.1
Illinois	6.0
California	5.8
Texas	5.7
Arkansas	5.6
Louisiana	5.6
Mississippi	5.6
New York	5.5
Alabama	5.4
New Mexico	5.4
Ohio	5.4
Rhode Island	5.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Kentucky	5.2
North Carolina	5.2
West Virginia	5.2
Arizona	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
Indiana	5.0
Massachusetts	5.0
Connecticut	4.8
Missouri	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
New Jersey	4.7
Colorado	4.6
Utah	4.6
Idaho	4.4
Kansas	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Florida	4.3
Tennessee	4.3
Montana	4.2
Maine	3.9
Georgia	3.8
Iowa	3.8
Maryland	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
New Hampshire	3.8
Nebraska	3.7
Nevada	3.7
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Virginia	3.4
Delaware	3.3
Vermont	3.2
Hawaii	3.0
South Dakota	3.0
North Dakota	2.7

## Economic Indicators

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

*The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming increased 39.6 percent from a year earlier, indicating a dramatic rise in oil & gas activity in the state.*

	May 2004 (p)	Apr 2004 (p)	May 2003 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	277,044	276,523	276,312	0.2	0.3
Unemployed	9,947	10,151	12,047	-2.0	-17.4
Employed	267,097	266,372	264,265	0.3	1.1
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.6%/3.7%	3.7%/3.4%	4.4%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.3%/5.6%	5.4%/5.6%	5.8%/6.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,258,000	7,239,000	7,338,000	0.3	-1.1
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	476,000	492,000	482,000	-3.3	-1.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,427,000	4,411,000	4,409,000	0.4	0.4
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,004.99	\$1,017.91	\$950.46	-1.3	5.7
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	43.8	43.4	-1.1	-0.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$830.78	\$830.65	\$794.70	0.0	4.5
Average Weekly Hours	45.2	44.9	45.0	0.7	0.4
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$637.60	\$633.22	\$696.65	0.7	-8.5
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	39.8	41.1	0.3	-2.9
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$658.42	\$652.04	\$628.73	1.0	4.7
Average Weekly Hours	41.1	40.6	40.2	1.2	2.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	12,715	15,764	15,771	-19.3	-19.4
Benefits Paid	\$2,963,576	\$3,664,823	\$3,624,938	-19.1	-18.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$233.08	\$232.48	\$229.85	0.3	1.4
State Insured Covered Jobs	234,488	226,787	229,590	3.4	2.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	189.1	188.0	183.5	0.6	3.1
Housing	186.5	185.0	179.4	0.8	4.0
Apparel	188.9	188.4	184.5	0.3	2.4
Transportation	123.4	124.3	122.5	-0.7	0.7
Medical Care	165.2	161.8	157.2	2.1	5.1
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	309.0	308.3	295.5	0.2	4.6
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	108.8	109.0	107.6	-0.2	1.1
Other Goods & Services	110.6	110.9	108.6	-0.3	1.8
Other Goods & Services	303.8	303.6	298.1	0.1	1.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	146.6	144.5	136.7	1.5	7.2
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	296	269	235	10.0	26.0
Valuation	\$42,622,000	\$48,589,000	\$38,549,000	-12.3	10.6
Single Family Homes	254	228	181	11.4	40.3
Valuation	\$39,326,000	\$45,501,000	\$31,818,000	-13.6	23.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	67	61	48	9.8	39.6

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

# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

*Fremont County posted the highest unemployment rate in May (5.4%). It was followed by Lincoln and Platte counties (both 4.4%).*

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2004 (p)	Apr 2004 (r)	May 2003 (b)	May 2004 (p)	Apr 2004 (r)	May 2003 (b)	May 2004 (p)	Apr 2004 (r)	May 2003 (b)	May 2004 (p)	Apr 2004 (r)	May 2003 (b)
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>47,728</b>	<b>46,783</b>	<b>47,556</b>	<b>45,689</b>	<b>44,689</b>	<b>45,337</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Big Horn	5,905	5,873	5,878	5,689	5,649	5,638	216	224	240	3.7	3.8	4.1
Fremont	18,824	18,909	18,606	17,803	17,831	17,517	1,021	1,078	1,089	5.4	5.7	5.9
Hot Springs	2,262	2,244	2,262	2,201	2,177	2,193	61	67	69	2.7	3.0	3.1
Park	16,181	15,205	16,130	15,606	14,651	15,505	575	554	625	3.6	3.6	3.9
Washakie	4,556	4,552	4,680	4,390	4,381	4,484	166	171	196	3.6	3.8	4.2
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>48,070</b>	<b>47,949</b>	<b>47,809</b>	<b>46,650</b>	<b>46,554</b>	<b>45,813</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Campbell	22,551	22,783	22,481	21,842	22,117	21,474	709	666	1,007	3.1	2.9	4.5
Crook	3,158	3,001	3,130	3,043	2,887	3,001	115	114	129	3.6	3.8	4.1
Johnson	4,222	4,066	4,171	4,144	3,997	4,035	78	69	136	1.8	1.7	3.3
Sheridan	14,916	14,915	14,747	14,499	14,465	14,145	417	450	602	2.8	3.0	4.1
Weston	3,223	3,184	3,280	3,122	3,088	3,158	101	96	122	3.1	3.0	3.7
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>54,859</b>	<b>54,405</b>	<b>54,739</b>	<b>52,811</b>	<b>52,108</b>	<b>51,968</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Lincoln	7,668	7,516	7,603	7,333	7,161	7,158	335	355	445	4.4	4.7	5.9
Sublette	3,949	3,766	3,721	3,863	3,682	3,614	86	84	107	2.2	2.2	2.9
Sweetwater	20,360	20,621	20,690	19,716	20,008	19,776	644	613	914	3.2	3.0	4.4
Teton	11,679	11,315	11,804	11,174	10,569	11,184	505	746	620	4.3	6.6	5.3
Uinta	11,203	11,187	10,921	10,725	10,688	10,236	478	499	685	4.3	4.5	6.3
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>75,704</b>	<b>76,094</b>	<b>75,096</b>	<b>73,136</b>	<b>73,617</b>	<b>72,606</b>	<b>2,568</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Albany	19,674	20,046	19,457	19,309	19,677	19,135	365	369	322	1.9	1.8	1.7
Goshen	6,279	6,307	6,277	6,084	6,091	6,059	195	216	218	3.1	3.4	3.5
Laramie	43,872	44,098	43,466	42,086	42,427	41,770	1,786	1,671	1,696	4.1	3.8	3.9
Niobrara	1,231	1,185	1,236	1,212	1,158	1,200	19	27	36	1.5	2.3	2.9
Platte	4,648	4,458	4,660	4,445	4,264	4,442	203	194	218	4.4	4.4	4.7
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>50,681</b>	<b>51,292</b>	<b>51,112</b>	<b>48,809</b>	<b>49,403</b>	<b>48,539</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Carbon	7,950	7,828	8,179	7,638	7,518	7,712	312	310	467	3.9	4.0	5.7
Converse	6,432	6,390	6,711	6,201	6,154	6,386	231	236	325	3.6	3.7	4.8
Natrona	36,299	37,074	36,222	34,970	35,731	34,441	1,329	1,343	1,781	3.7	3.6	4.9
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>277,044</b>	<b>276,523</b>	<b>276,312</b>	<b>267,097</b>	<b>266,372</b>	<b>264,265</b>	<b>9,947</b>	<b>10,151</b>	<b>12,047</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										3.7	3.4	4.4
U.S.....										5.3	5.4	5.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.6	5.6	6.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 06/04.  
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

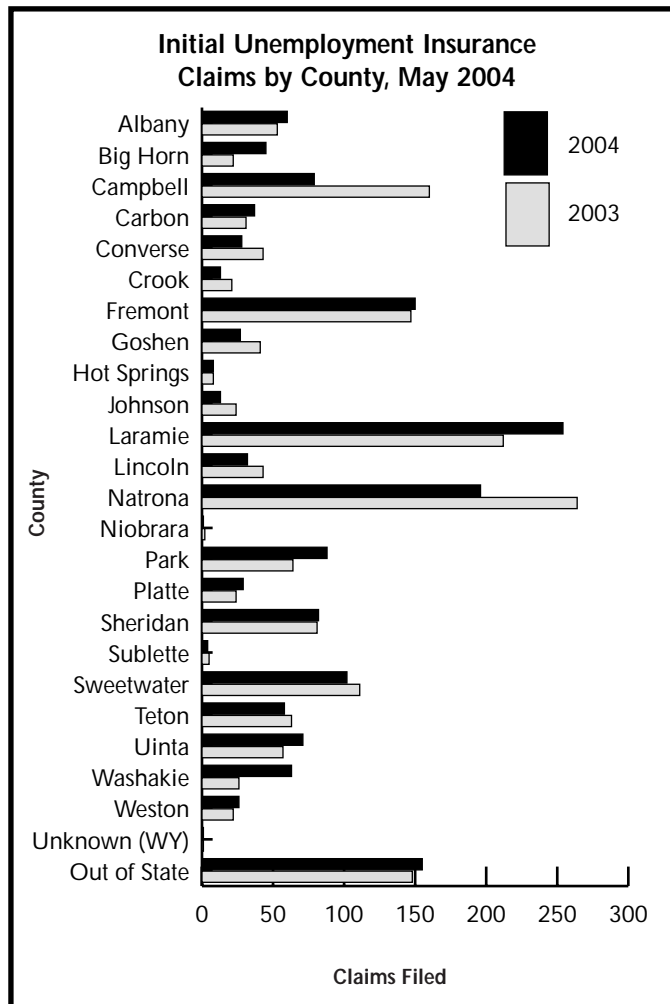
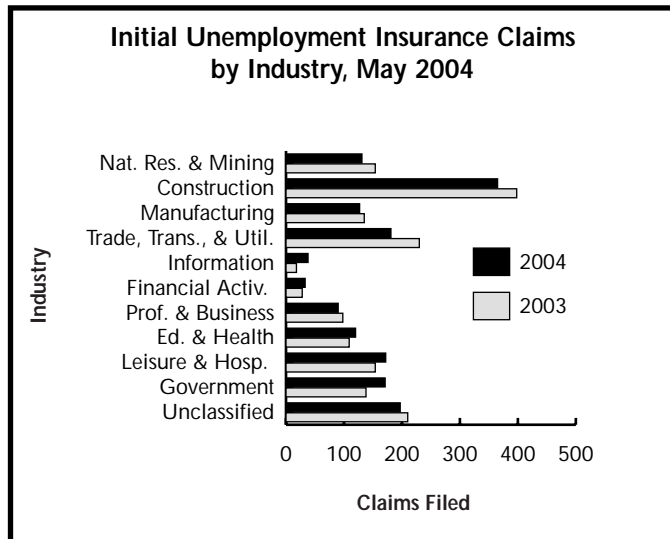
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent. The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.9 to 4.9 percent would contain the actual rate.

## Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Initial claims declined 20.3 percent from April to May. This percentage decrease was slightly less than those seen from 1997 to 2003.



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	May04	Apr04	May03	Apr04	May03
<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,625	2,038	1,674	-20.3	-2.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	623	641	687	-2.8	-9.3
Natural Resources and Mining	131	181	154	-27.6	-14.9
Mining	109	150	138	-27.3	-21.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	12	17	8	-29.4	50.0
Construction	365	385	398	-5.2	-8.3
Manufacturing	127	75	135	69.3	-5.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	692	1,119	697	-38.2	-0.7
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	181	236	230	-23.3	-21.3
Wholesale Trade	29	28	48	3.6	-39.6
Retail Trade	114	133	137	-14.3	-16.8
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	38	75	45	-49.3	-15.6
Information	38	34	18	11.8	111.1
Financial Activities	33	47	28	-29.8	17.9
Professional & Business Services	90	135	98	-33.3	-8.2
Educational & Health Services	120	95	109	26.3	10.1
Leisure & Hospitality	172	522	154	-67.0	11.7
Other Services	58	50	60	16.0	-3.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	171	137	138	24.8	23.9
Federal Government	36	49	26	-26.5	38.5
State Government	22	18	25	22.2	-12.0
Local Government	113	70	87	61.4	29.9
Local Education	26	13	30	100.0	-13.3
UNCLASSIFIED	139	141	152	-1.4	-8.6

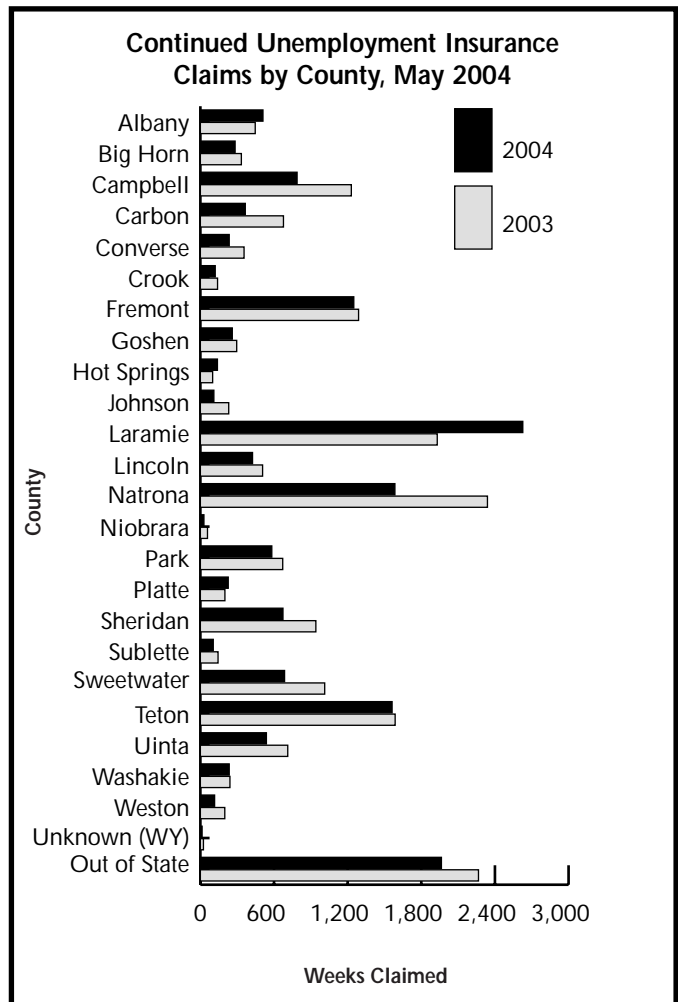
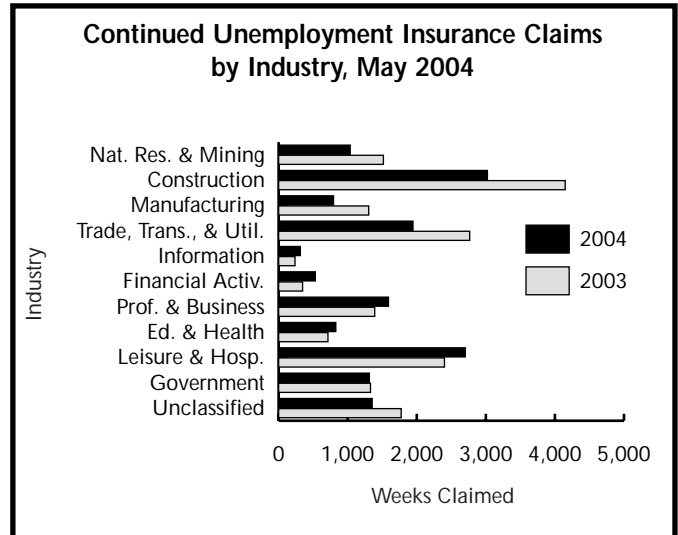
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	251	295	210	-14.9	19.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	74	96	65	-22.9	13.8
Construction	40	80	60	-50.0	-33.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	139	169	117	-17.8	18.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	25	47	29	-46.8	-13.8
Financial Activities	11	10	5	10.0	120.0
Professional & Business Services	30	40	21	-25.0	42.9
Educational & Health Services	12	17	15	-29.4	-20.0
Leisure & Hospitality	19	14	19	35.7	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	23	20	17	15.0	35.3
UNCLASSIFIED	15	10	11	50.0	36.4

<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	194	212	262	-8.5	-26.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	83	80	126	3.8	-34.1
Construction	57	55	57	3.6	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	96	104	120	-7.7	-20.0
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	24	22	39	9.1	-38.5
Financial Activities	6	9	5	-33.3	20.0
Professional & Business Services	12	25	21	-52.0	-42.9
Educational & Health Services	24	25	16	-4.0	50.0
Leisure & Hospitality	20	17	26	17.6	-23.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5	15	5	-66.7	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	13	11	-23.1	-9.1

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

*The Goods Producing sector was responsible for a substantial portion of the over-the-month and over-the-year declines.*

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change	
	May04	Apr04		May04	
		May03	Apr03	May04	May03
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	15,432	18,440	17,930	-16.3	-13.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	4,776	5,941	5,692	-19.6	-16.1
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>6,460</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>-24.9</b>	<b>-30.4</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,036	1,075	1,517	-3.6	-31.7
Mining	884	887	1,323	-0.3	-33.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	129	163	81	-20.9	59.3
Construction	3,023	4,430	4,149	-31.8	-27.1
Manufacturing	795	955	1,304	-16.8	-39.0
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>8,230</b>	<b>8,889</b>	<b>8,267</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	1,945	2,163	2,766	-10.1	-29.7
Wholesale Trade	240	266	383	-9.8	-37.3
Retail Trade	1,212	1,375	1,572	-11.9	-22.9
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	493	522	811	-5.6	-39.2
Information	314	278	237	12.9	32.5
Financial Activities	531	572	347	-7.2	53.0
Professional & Business Services	1,590	1,728	1,391	-8.0	14.3
Educational & Health Services	828	848	714	-2.4	16.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,702	2,898	2,401	-6.8	12.5
Other Services	320	402	411	-20.4	-22.1
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>-28.7</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Federal Government	450	893	488	-49.6	-7.8
State Government	237	266	221	-10.9	7.2
Local Government	627	683	621	-8.2	1.0
Local Education	159	172	147	-7.6	8.2
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>-17.2</b>	<b>-24.1</b>
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,625	2,792	1,932	-6.0	35.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	811	874	608	-7.2	33.4
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>-21.7</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Construction	485	688	495	-29.5	-2.0
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>57.8</b>
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	315	323	365	-2.5	-13.7
Financial Activities	108	129	74	-16.3	45.9
Professional & Business Services	731	637	250	14.8	192.4
Educational & Health Services	170	144	72	18.1	136.1
Leisure & Hospitality	122	124	153	-1.6	-20.3
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>-23.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>
<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,587	1,896	2,341	-16.3	-32.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	496	619	744	-19.9	-33.3
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>-22.5</b>	<b>-49.0</b>
Construction	332	459	429	-27.7	-22.6
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>-13.7</b>	<b>-17.5</b>
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	281	326	463	-13.8	-39.3
Financial Activities	75	83	79	-9.6	-5.1
Professional & Business Services	210	265	246	-20.8	-14.6
Educational & Health Services	195	230	160	-15.2	21.9
Leisure & Hospitality	155	166	151	-6.6	2.6
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>-20.5</b>	<b>-40.5</b>
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>-40.0</b>



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