

TRENDS

Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims and Benefit Payments Reach 10-Year High in Fiscal Year 2003

by: *Sherry Wen, Senior Economist*

“These significant changes in unemployment insurance statistics suggest that there were fewer reemployment opportunities in Wyoming’s labor market in Fiscal Year 2003 compared to previous years.”

“**T**he nation’s unemployment rate soared to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June...businesses cut 30,000 more positions from their payrolls, marking a fifth straight month without job growth, the Labor Department reported....”¹ As the nation’s economy struggles to recover from the 2001 recession, Wyoming’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims and benefit payments² reached a 10-year high in Fiscal Year 2003 (FY2003), which began July 1, 2002 and ended June 30, 2003. A total of 29,203 initial claims³ were filed in FY2003, 26.2 percent higher than the previous year (see Figure 1, page 3). The weeks claimed for UI also rose to 226,429, a 30.4 percent annual increase (see Figure 2, page 3).

Due in part to the rise in claims, the Wyoming Department of Employment paid over \$46 million in unemployment insurance benefits in FY2003. This amount represents a 45.3 percent (\$13.5 million) increase in benefits paid compared to FY2002 (\$31.8 million).

The major reason for the increase in the amount of UI benefits paid was the increase in UI claimants. The two industries with most of the layoffs were Construction (8,396 initial claims or 28.9%) and Services (5,794 initial claims or 19.8%). Many of the layoffs were

due to the seasonal fluctuations the two industries typically experience. All industries experienced increases in UI initial claims in FY2003. The largest over-the-year increase occurred in Construction (50.8%). Manufacturing and Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE) increased 41.8 percent and 37.3 percent, respectively.

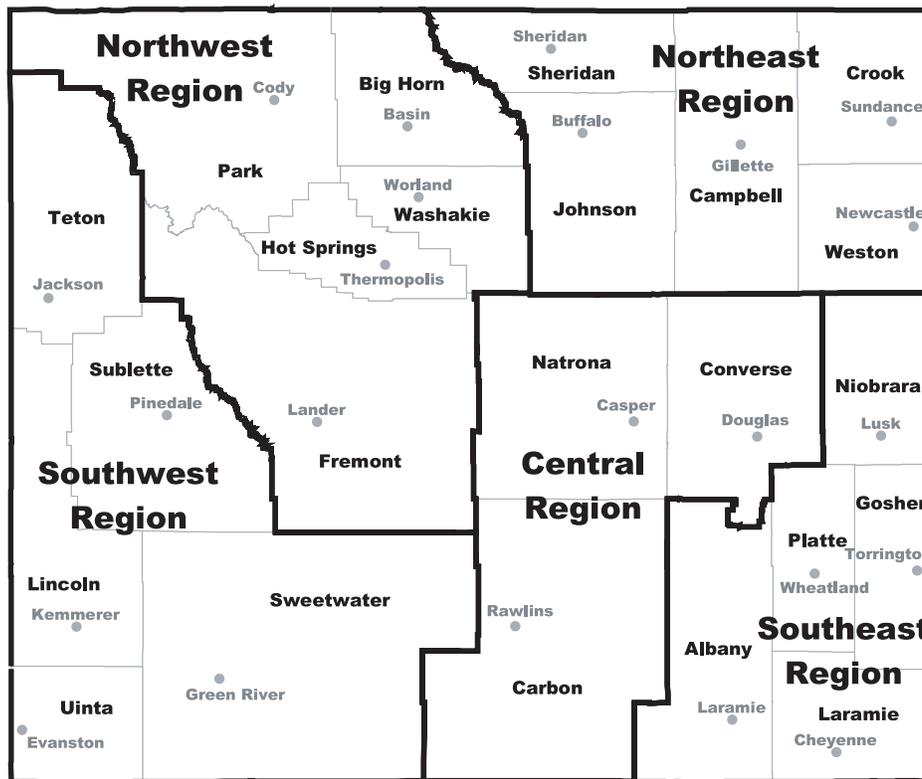
Wyoming nonresidents filed slightly more than 11 percent of total initial claims in both

(Text continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Claims and Benefit Payments Reach 10-Year High in Fiscal Year 2003 | 1 |
| Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Second Quarter 2003 | 6 |
| Wyoming Employment Falls Slightly in July | 8 |
| State Unemployment Rates | 9 |
| Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment | 10 |
| Economic Indicators | 12 |
| County Employment Rates | 13 |
| Unemployment Insurance Statistics | 14 |

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Cynthia Pomeroy, Director.

Research & Planning Section, P.O. Box 2760 Casper, WY 82602-2760

Tom Gallagher, Manager

e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us

307-473-3801

Krista R. Shinkle, Editor

e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us

307-473-3808

Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Mark A. Harris, Craig Radden Henderson, Susan J. Murray, and Krista R. Shinkle.

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: David Bullard, Douglas W. Leonard, Brad Payne, and Sherry Wen.

Subscriptions, additional copies, and back issues available free of charge.

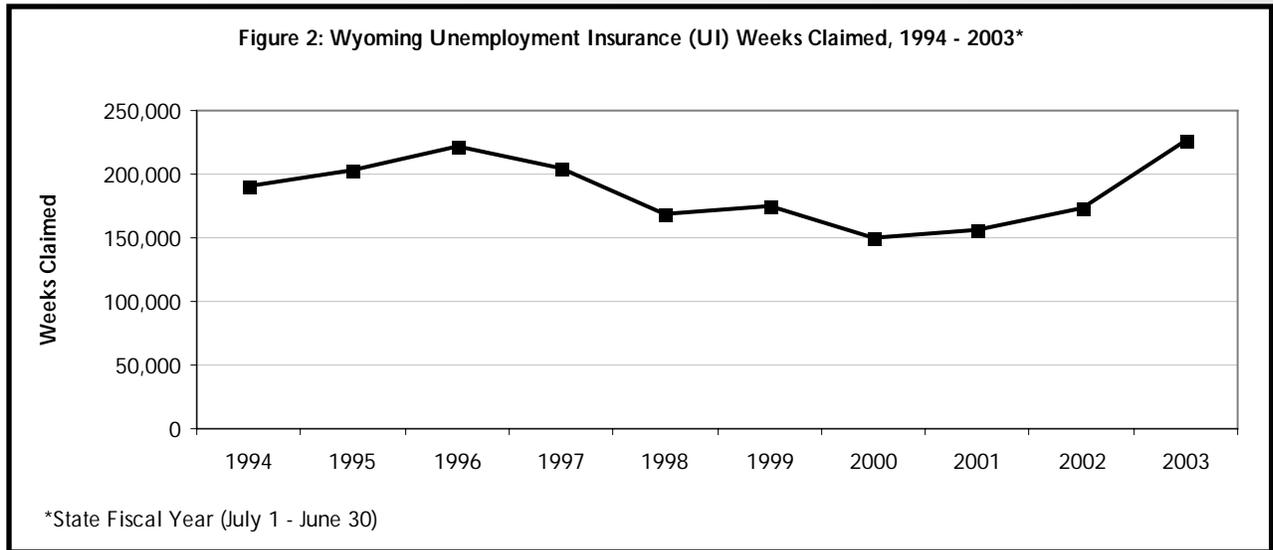
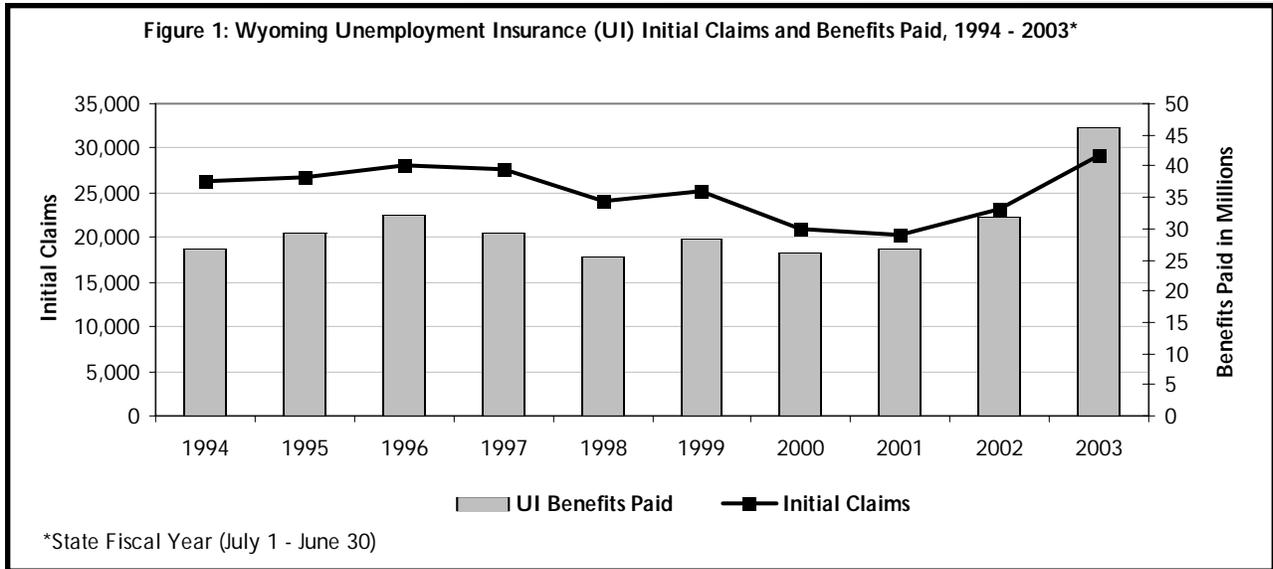
© Copyright 2003 by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.

Material contained in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission provided that source credit is given to: **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.

Department of Employment Nondiscrimination Statement

The Department of Employment does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. It is our intention that all individuals seeking services from our agency be given equal opportunity and that eligibility decisions be based upon applicable statutes, rules, and regulations.

ISSN 0512-4409



FY2002 and FY2003 (see Table 1, page 4). Services had the highest proportion of out-of-state claims in FY2003 (817 claims or 14.1%).

The number of unique UI benefit recipients (UI recipients) increased from 16,166 individuals in FY2002 to 19,377 in FY2003 (see Table 2, page 4). Mining had very little change (1.6%). All other industries had increases in UI recipients ranging from 14.8 percent to 32.7 percent. Among recipients, a total of 4,766 individuals exhausted their regular UI benefits in FY2003, a 68.2 percent increase compared to FY2002. The statewide UI exhaustion rate (the number of exhaustees

divided by the number of UI recipients) also increased from 17.5 percent in FY2002 to 24.6 percent in FY2003.

The large increases in UI exhaustees and the higher exhaustion rate indicate that reemployment opportunities in Wyoming's labor market were fewer in FY2003 compared to the previous year. This change may be a result of the long-term uncertainty of the national economy. For example, more Wyoming employers may not be confident enough to hire additional workers or expand their businesses. Another possibility is that more employees may have come from other

Table 1: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims by Industry, Fiscal Years (FY) 2002 and 2003

| Industry | Initial Claims | | | | Out-of-State Initial Claims (% of Industry Total) | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| | FY2002 | FY2003 | Change | | FY2002 | FY2003 |
| | | | Number | Percent | | |
| Agriculture | 339 | 451 | 112 | 33.0% | 5.9% | 6.9% |
| Mining | 2,575 | 2,811 | 236 | 9.2% | 6.3% | 6.1% |
| Construction | 5,567 | 8,396 | 2,829 | 50.8% | 6.9% | 5.9% |
| Manufacturing | 1,349 | 1,913 | 564 | 41.8% | 4.7% | 4.7% |
| TCPU* | 967 | 1,266 | 299 | 30.9% | 7.0% | 8.4% |
| Wholesale Trade | 436 | 534 | 98 | 22.5% | 5.0% | 3.9% |
| Retail Trade | 2,647 | 3,314 | 667 | 25.2% | 7.5% | 7.2% |
| FIRE** | 236 | 324 | 88 | 37.3% | 5.5% | 6.2% |
| Services | 4,513 | 5,794 | 1,281 | 28.4% | 15.7% | 14.1% |
| Public Administration | 655 | 784 | 129 | 19.7% | 6.1% | 7.7% |
| Unclassified*** | 3,859 | 3,616 | -243 | -6.3% | 37.8% | 41.6% |
| Total | 23,143 | 29,203 | 6,060 | 26.2% | 11.9% | 11.3% |

*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

**Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

***No industry information is available.

Table 2: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients and Exhaustees by Industry, Fiscal Years (FY) 2002 and 2003

| Industry | UI Benefit Recipients | | | | UI Exhaustees | | | | Exhaustion Rate | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | FY2002 | FY2003 | Change | | FY2002 | FY2003 | Change | | FY2002 | FY2003 |
| | | | Number | Percent | | | Number | Percent | | |
| Agriculture | 251 | 333 | 82 | 32.7% | 50 | 84 | 34 | 68.0% | 19.9% | 25.2% |
| Mining | 1,761 | 1,790 | 29 | 1.6% | 208 | 367 | 159 | 76.4% | 11.8% | 20.5% |
| Construction | 3,838 | 5,027 | 1,189 | 31.0% | 539 | 1,208 | 669 | 124.1% | 14.0% | 24.0% |
| Manufacturing | 1,000 | 1,325 | 325 | 32.5% | 166 | 301 | 135 | 81.3% | 16.6% | 22.7% |
| TCPU* | 726 | 912 | 186 | 25.6% | 134 | 184 | 50 | 37.3% | 18.5% | 20.2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 380 | 441 | 61 | 16.1% | 65 | 97 | 32 | 49.2% | 17.1% | 22.0% |
| Retail Trade | 2,065 | 2,371 | 306 | 14.8% | 354 | 528 | 174 | 49.2% | 17.1% | 22.3% |
| FIRE** | 211 | 278 | 67 | 31.8% | 33 | 67 | 34 | 103.0% | 15.6% | 24.1% |
| Services | 3,650 | 4,384 | 734 | 20.1% | 764 | 1,213 | 449 | 58.8% | 20.9% | 27.7% |
| Public Administration | 508 | 641 | 133 | 26.2% | 114 | 182 | 68 | 59.6% | 22.4% | 28.4% |
| Unclassified*** | 1,776 | 1,875 | 99 | 5.6% | 406 | 535 | 129 | 31.8% | 22.9% | 28.5% |
| Total | 16,166 | 19,377 | 3,211 | 19.9% | 2,833 | 4,766 | 1,933 | 68.2% | 17.5% | 24.6% |

*Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

**Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

***No industry information is available.

states to compete with Wyoming workers for finite job opportunities. Also, unemployed workers in Wyoming may have been less inclined to move and find jobs in other states compared to a few years ago.

A shortage of reemployment opportunities occurred in all industries as shown in Table 2. All industries had a significant increase in the number of UI exhaustees in FY2003 and in

their UI exhaustion rates. Again, Construction (1,208) and Services (1,213) were the largest contributors of UI exhaustees. More than half of the unemployed workers who exhausted benefits were in these two industries (25.3% and 25.5%, respectively). Public Administration had the highest exhaustion rate (28.4%) followed by Services (27.7%). Mining had the most significant exhaustion rate increase climbing from 11.8 percent to

20.5 percent, while Construction closely followed, increasing from 14.0 percent to 24.0 percent.

County Level UI Statistics

As shown in Table 3, Natrona County, Laramie County, and Out-of-State represent the highest numbers of UI Initial Claims (each having approximately 12% of the state total). Hot Springs was the only county to have fewer UI claims in FY2003 than in FY2002. Converse and Johnson counties had the highest over-the-year percentage increases in initial claims (75.4% and 70.1%, respectively).

Sweetwater and Hot Springs were the only counties to see fewer UI recipients. Campbell County, on the other hand, had the largest increase in recipients with 400 more unemployed workers collecting UI than the previous year (a 56.0% increase). Four

counties (Campbell, Converse, Natrona, and Crook) more than doubled the number of individuals who exhausted their regular UI benefits in FY2003 compared to the previous year. Similarly, Campbell, Converse, and Natrona counties also showed a significant over-the-year increase in the exhaustion rate. Campbell County rose from 8.9 percent to 15.9 percent, Converse County climbed from 14.0 percent to 24.8 percent, and Natrona County jumped from 13.7 percent to 23.6 percent. These increases suggest the three counties experienced the fewest reemployment opportunities in FY2003. Approximately one-third of Big Horn County and Out-of-State claimants exhausted their regular UI benefits, the highest exhaustion rates in FY2003.

Conclusion

Wyoming's UI claims and benefit payments reached a 10-year high in FY2003. Almost all

Table 3: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims, Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rate by County, Fiscal Years (FY) 2002 and 2003

| County | UI Initial Claims | | | UI Benefit Recipients | | | Benefit Exhaustees | | | Exhaustion Rate | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| | FY2002 | FY2003 | % Change | FY2002 | FY2003 | % Change | FY2002 | FY2003 | % Change | FY2002 | FY2003 | % Change |
| Albany | 709 | 826 | 16.5% | 548 | 556 | 1.5% | 114 | 144 | 26.3% | 20.8% | 25.9% | 24.5% |
| Big Horn | 432 | 523 | 21.1% | 340 | 362 | 6.5% | 71 | 117 | 64.8% | 20.9% | 32.3% | 54.8% |
| Campbell | 1,169 | 1,933 | 65.4% | 800 | 1,248 | 56.0% | 71 | 199 | 180.3% | 8.9% | 15.9% | 79.7% |
| Carbon | 711 | 789 | 11.0% | 520 | 554 | 6.5% | 98 | 145 | 48.0% | 18.8% | 26.2% | 38.9% |
| Converse | 386 | 677 | 75.4% | 307 | 428 | 39.4% | 43 | 106 | 146.5% | 14.0% | 24.8% | 76.8% |
| Crook | 157 | 266 | 69.4% | 113 | 162 | 43.4% | 17 | 35 | 105.9% | 15.0% | 21.6% | 43.6% |
| Fremont | 1,906 | 2,399 | 25.9% | 1,426 | 1,678 | 17.7% | 271 | 438 | 61.6% | 19.0% | 26.1% | 37.4% |
| Goshen | 333 | 419 | 25.8% | 258 | 297 | 15.1% | 52 | 69 | 32.7% | 20.2% | 23.2% | 15.3% |
| Hot Springs | 210 | 187 | -11.0% | 162 | 141 | -13.0% | 41 | 33 | -19.5% | 25.3% | 23.4% | -7.5% |
| Johnson | 201 | 342 | 70.1% | 150 | 214 | 42.7% | 26 | 33 | 26.9% | 17.3% | 15.4% | -11.0% |
| Laramie | 2,374 | 3,359 | 41.5% | 1,895 | 2,223 | 17.3% | 327 | 511 | 56.3% | 17.3% | 23.0% | 33.2% |
| Lincoln | 570 | 827 | 45.1% | 438 | 590 | 34.7% | 82 | 141 | 72.0% | 18.7% | 23.9% | 27.7% |
| Natrona | 2,893 | 3,984 | 37.7% | 2,116 | 2,609 | 23.3% | 289 | 617 | 113.5% | 13.7% | 23.6% | 73.2% |
| Niobrara | 62 | 74 | 19.4% | 50 | 55 | 10.0% | 13 | 11 | -15.4% | 26.0% | 20.0% | -23.1% |
| Park | 1,169 | 1,416 | 21.1% | 935 | 961 | 2.8% | 171 | 286 | 67.3% | 18.3% | 29.8% | 62.7% |
| Platte | 243 | 373 | 53.5% | 189 | 247 | 30.7% | 33 | 64 | 93.9% | 17.5% | 25.9% | 48.4% |
| Sheridan | 1,084 | 1,421 | 31.1% | 808 | 943 | 16.7% | 140 | 222 | 58.6% | 17.3% | 23.5% | 35.9% |
| Sublette | 113 | 186 | 64.6% | 89 | 136 | 52.8% | 12 | 23 | 91.7% | 13.5% | 16.9% | 25.4% |
| Sweetwater | 1,728 | 1,864 | 7.9% | 1,197 | 1,195 | -0.2% | 188 | 299 | 59.0% | 15.7% | 25.0% | 59.3% |
| Teton | 1,061 | 1,362 | 28.4% | 747 | 947 | 26.8% | 72 | 125 | 73.6% | 9.6% | 13.2% | 36.9% |
| Uinta | 966 | 1,071 | 10.9% | 694 | 762 | 9.8% | 107 | 202 | 88.8% | 15.4% | 26.5% | 71.9% |
| Washakie | 386 | 524 | 35.8% | 314 | 365 | 16.2% | 81 | 83 | 2.5% | 25.8% | 22.7% | -11.8% |
| Weston | 185 | 288 | 55.7% | 151 | 190 | 25.8% | 29 | 45 | 55.2% | 19.2% | 23.7% | 23.3% |
| Out-of-State | 2,569 | 3,200 | 24.6% | 1,906 | 2,492 | 30.7% | 482 | 816 | 69.3% | 25.3% | 32.7% | 29.5% |
| Unclassified* | 1,526 | 893 | -41.5% | 13 | 22 | 69.2% | 3 | 2 | -33.3% | 23.1% | 9.1% | -60.6% |
| Total | 23,143 | 29,203 | 26.2% | 16,166 | 19,377 | 19.9% | 2,833 | 4,766 | 68.2% | 17.5% | 24.6% | 40.4% |

*No industry information is available.

industries in FY2003 experienced large increases in the number of UI benefit recipients, exhaustees, and exhaustion rates. These significant changes suggest that there were fewer reemployment opportunities in Wyoming's labor market in FY2003 compared with previous years.

¹"Jobless Rate Hits Nine-Year High," *Casper Star-Tribune*, July 4, 2003, p. A1.

²Only Wyoming liable Unemployment Insurance claims and benefits were included. Interstate and Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) claims were not under consideration.

³Initial claims in this study include new initial claims and additional claims in the year. One person could be laid off more than once in the same year. After the new initial claim was filed, the individual could file an additional claim for each layoff experienced in the same benefit year. Essentially, the number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) initial claims represents the number of layoffs occurring in a specific time period. Even if an individual files an initial claim, the person is not guaranteed to receive UI benefits, since there are several eligibility requirements which must be met. Individuals who are laid off but choose not to file for UI benefits are not counted. Despite this deficiency, UI initial claims are our best way of tracking layoffs.



Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Second Quarter 2003

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

"The 1.6 percent over-the-year decrease in unemployment from 02Q2 to 03Q2 is in stark contrast to the 7.2 percent increase posted a year earlier between 01Q2 and 02Q2."

During second quarter 2003 (03Q2), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) employment increased statewide by 5,430 jobs or 2.1 percent when compared to second quarter 2002 (02Q2). While employment rose between 02Q2 and 03Q2, employment declined 1.1 percent the previous year (between 01Q2 and 02Q2). Similar to employment, the labor force increased by 5,249 or 1.9 percent between 02Q2 and 03Q2 while unemployment decreased by 181 or 1.6 percent over the same time period. The 1.6 percent over-the-year decrease in unemployment from 02Q2 to 03Q2 is in stark contrast to the 7.2 percent increase posted a year earlier between 01Q2 and 02Q2 (which included a period of U.S. economic recession). The average unemployment rate during 03Q2 was 4.0 percent while the unemployment rates from

previous years (01Q2 and 02Q2) were 4.1 and 3.8 percent, respectively.

Within Wyoming, each of the five regions (see Map, page 2) experienced positive over-the-year employment growth. The Southwest Region recorded the highest rate of growth (3.9 percent) by adding 1,962 jobs. Employment growth in Lincoln (224 jobs), Sublette (60 jobs), Sweetwater (743 jobs), Teton (391 jobs), and Uinta (544 jobs) counties contributed to regional growth. The Southwest and Northeast were the only regions to show employment growth in all of the underlying counties.

The statewide decrease in unemployment was a result of decreased unemployment in the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast regions which offset a 9.3 percent

Table: Change in Wyoming's Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rates by Region and County, Second Quarter 2003

| REGION/ County | Labor Force | | | | Employment | | | | Unemployment | | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Second Quarter | | Change | | Second Quarter | | Change | | Second Quarter | | Change | | Second Quarter | | Change |
| | 2003 | 2002 | Number | % | 2003 | 2002 | Number | % | 2003 | 2002 | Number | % | 2003 | 2002 | |
| NORTHWEST | 47,556 | 47,229 | 328 | 0.7 | 45,454 | 44,769 | 684 | 1.5 | 2,103 | 2,459 | -357 | -14.5 | 4.4 | 5.2 | -0.8 |
| Big Horn | 5,841 | 5,791 | 49 | 0.9 | 5,623 | 5,495 | 128 | 2.3 | 218 | 297 | -79 | -26.5 | 3.7 | 5.1 | -1.4 |
| Fremont | 18,825 | 18,675 | 150 | 0.8 | 17,756 | 17,590 | 166 | 0.9 | 1,069 | 1,085 | -16 | -1.5 | 5.7 | 5.8 | -0.1 |
| Hot Springs | 2,336 | 2,413 | -77 | -3.2 | 2,273 | 2,299 | -26 | -1.1 | 63 | 114 | -51 | -44.7 | 2.7 | 4.7 | -2.0 |
| Park | 16,061 | 15,775 | 286 | 1.8 | 15,481 | 15,084 | 397 | 2.6 | 580 | 691 | -111 | -16.1 | 3.6 | 4.4 | -0.8 |
| Washakie | 4,494 | 4,574 | -81 | -1.8 | 4,320 | 4,301 | 19 | 0.4 | 173 | 273 | -100 | -36.5 | 3.9 | 6.0 | -2.1 |
| NORTHEAST | 48,639 | 47,785 | 853 | 1.8 | 46,815 | 46,117 | 698 | 1.5 | 1,824 | 1,669 | 155 | 9.3 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 0.3 |
| Campbell | 23,110 | 22,828 | 283 | 1.2 | 22,196 | 22,039 | 156 | 0.7 | 915 | 788 | 126 | 16.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 0.5 |
| Crook | 3,088 | 3,030 | 58 | 1.9 | 2,966 | 2,921 | 45 | 1.6 | 122 | 109 | 13 | 12.0 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 0.3 |
| Johnson | 4,190 | 4,066 | 124 | 3.1 | 4,070 | 3,950 | 120 | 3.0 | 120 | 115 | 4 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Sheridan | 14,860 | 14,552 | 308 | 2.1 | 14,305 | 14,022 | 283 | 2.0 | 555 | 530 | 25 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 0.1 |
| Weston | 3,390 | 3,310 | 80 | 2.4 | 3,278 | 3,184 | 94 | 3.0 | 113 | 127 | -14 | -11.1 | 3.3 | 3.8 | -0.5 |
| SOUTHWEST | 55,256 | 53,304 | 1,952 | 3.7 | 52,733 | 50,770 | 1,962 | 3.9 | 2,523 | 2,534 | -11 | -0.4 | 4.6 | 4.8 | -0.2 |
| Lincoln | 6,945 | 6,699 | 246 | 3.7 | 6,541 | 6,317 | 224 | 3.5 | 404 | 382 | 22 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 0.1 |
| Sublette | 3,589 | 3,535 | 53 | 1.5 | 3,501 | 3,441 | 60 | 1.8 | 88 | 95 | -7 | -7.4 | 2.5 | 2.7 | -0.3 |
| Sweetwater | 20,235 | 19,569 | 666 | 3.4 | 19,395 | 18,652 | 743 | 4.0 | 840 | 917 | -77 | -8.4 | 4.2 | 4.7 | -0.5 |
| Teton | 12,774 | 12,293 | 482 | 3.9 | 12,222 | 11,830 | 391 | 3.3 | 553 | 462 | 90 | 19.5 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 0.5 |
| Uinta | 11,713 | 11,208 | 505 | 4.5 | 11,074 | 10,530 | 544 | 5.2 | 639 | 678 | -39 | -5.8 | 5.5 | 6.0 | -0.6 |
| SOUTHEAST | 74,546 | 73,661 | 885 | 1.2 | 72,223 | 71,303 | 919 | 1.3 | 2,324 | 2,358 | -34 | -1.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 | -0.1 |
| Albany | 19,181 | 19,259 | -79 | -0.4 | 18,863 | 18,875 | -12 | -0.1 | 318 | 385 | -67 | -17.3 | 1.7 | 2.0 | -0.3 |
| Goshen | 6,314 | 6,248 | 66 | 1.1 | 6,103 | 6,029 | 74 | 1.2 | 211 | 218 | -8 | -3.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 | -0.2 |
| Laramie | 43,215 | 42,289 | 926 | 2.2 | 41,647 | 40,750 | 897 | 2.2 | 1,568 | 1,539 | 30 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 0.0 |
| Niobrara | 1,208 | 1,222 | -14 | -1.1 | 1,172 | 1,173 | -1 | -0.1 | 36 | 48 | -13 | -26.2 | 3.0 | 4.0 | -1.0 |
| Platte | 4,629 | 4,644 | -15 | -0.3 | 4,438 | 4,476 | -38 | -0.8 | 191 | 168 | 23 | 13.7 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 0.5 |
| CENTRAL | 50,905 | 49,672 | 1,233 | 2.5 | 48,617 | 47,451 | 1,166 | 2.5 | 2,288 | 2,221 | 67 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| Carbon | 8,231 | 8,139 | 93 | 1.1 | 7,817 | 7,773 | 44 | 0.6 | 414 | 365 | 49 | 13.4 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 0.5 |
| Converse | 6,339 | 6,320 | 19 | 0.3 | 6,043 | 6,071 | -28 | -0.5 | 296 | 249 | 47 | 19.0 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 0.7 |
| Natrona | 36,335 | 35,214 | 1,121 | 3.2 | 34,757 | 33,607 | 1,151 | 3.4 | 1,577 | 1,607 | -30 | -1.8 | 4.3 | 4.6 | -0.2 |
| STATEWIDE | 276,901 | 271,652 | 5,249 | 1.9 | 265,841 | 260,410 | 5,430 | 2.1 | 11,060 | 11,241 | -181 | -1.6 | 4.0 | 4.1 | -0.1 |

unemployment increase in the Northeast Region and a 3.0 percent unemployment increase in the Central Region. Unemployment growth in the Northeast Region was led by Campbell County which grew by 126 jobs (16.0%) while unemployment growth in the Central Region was led by Carbon County (49 jobs or 13.4%). Conversely, the largest decline in unemployment was found in Park County where unemployment shrank by 111 jobs (16.1%). No region in the state showed unemployment growth in each of its underlying counties.

The most dramatic over-the-year increases in unemployment rates were found in

Converse, Carbon, Teton, Campbell, and Platte counties. Converse County's over-the-year change in the unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage points (up from 3.9% in 02Q2 to 4.7% in 03Q2). Carbon County's unemployment rate increased from 4.5 percent in 02Q2 to 5.0 percent in 03Q2 (a change of 0.5 percentage points). Teton County's unemployment rate increased from 3.9 percent to 4.4 percent (a change of 0.5 percentage points). The unemployment rate in both Campbell and Platte counties increased by 0.5 percentage points (up from 3.5% and 3.6% to 4.0% and 4.1%, respectively). In Converse, Carbon, Teton, and Campbell counties, significant increases in

unemployment (19.0%, 13.4%, 19.5%, and 16.0%, respectively) with small increases in the labor force contributed to the rise in unemployment rates. The increased unemployment rate in Platte County was a function of higher unemployment and a smaller labor force.

The largest declines in the unemployment rates between 02Q2 and 03Q2 were posted in Washakie, Hot Springs, and Big Horn

counties. The unemployment rates fell from 6.0 percent to 3.9 percent in Washakie County, 4.7 percent to 2.7 percent in Hot Springs County, and 5.1 percent to 3.7 percent in Big Horn County. The decreases in the unemployment rates for Washakie, Hot Springs, and Big Horn counties were driven by large decreases in unemployment; 36.5 percent, 44.7 percent, and 26.5 percent, respectively.



Wyoming Employment Falls Slightly in July

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.2 percent in June to 4.1 percent in July and labor force growth remained strong (up 2.3% from July 2002). In contrast, U.S. unemployment fell slightly (down from 6.4% in June to 6.2% in July) because of a decreasing national labor force (down 556,000 individuals or 0.4% from June to July). Wyoming job growth continued at a very slow pace (up 1,600 jobs or 0.6%) while the U.S. lost jobs (down 404,000 or 0.3%).

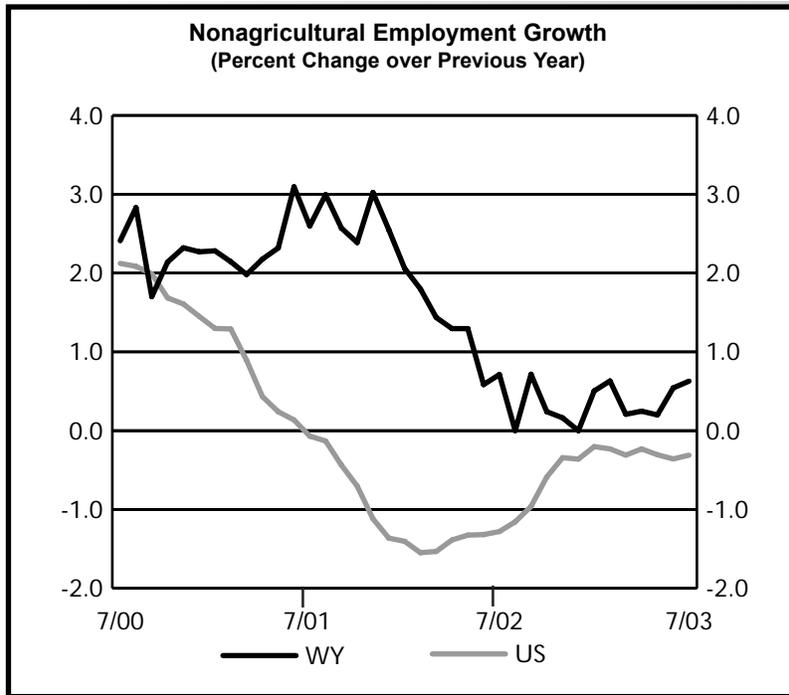
From June to July, Wyoming nonagricultural employment fell by 3,300 jobs or 1.3 percent. A seasonal decline of this magnitude is expected as public schools close for summer vacation. Government employment (including school districts and colleges) fell by 5,800 jobs or 9.0 percent. Leisure & Hospitality added 1,600 jobs or 4.5 percent marking July as the usual peak of the summer tourist season.

From July 2002 to July 2003, Wyoming added 1,600 jobs or 0.6 percent. Job losses in the goods-producing sector, which have plagued Wyoming for many months, moderated in July. Manufacturing lost 100

jobs over the year (-1.1%) and Natural Resources & Mining also lost 100 jobs (-0.5%). Construction employment grew slightly, adding 200 jobs (0.9%). In the service-providing sector, the employment situation was mixed. Leisure & Hospitality added 800 jobs (2.2%), Government added 800 jobs (1.4%), and Educational & Health Services added 400 jobs (2.0%). However, Retail Trade fell by 300 jobs (-1.0%), Financial Activities fell by 100 jobs (-1.0%), and Professional & Business Services fell by 300 jobs (-1.8%).

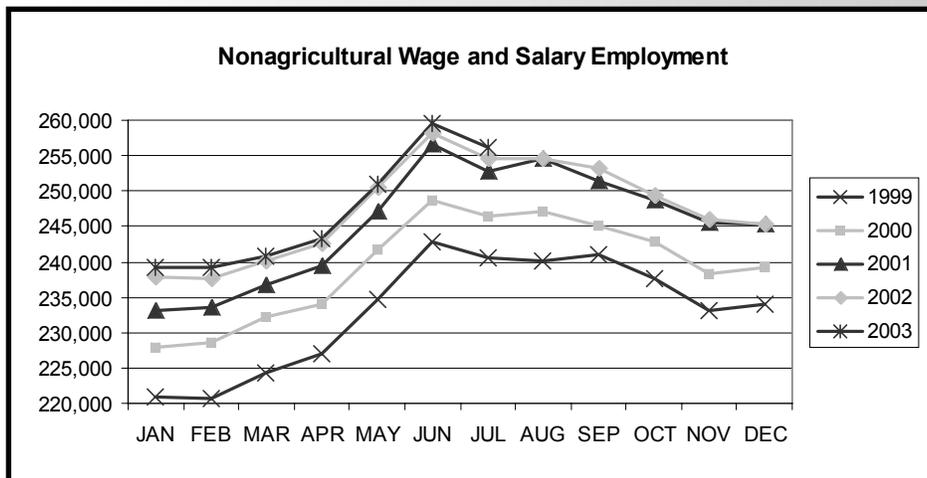
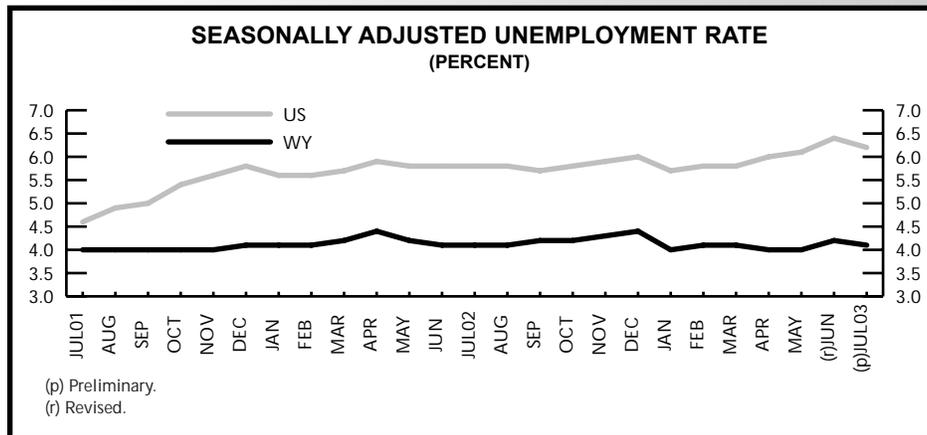
Across Wyoming's 23 counties, most unemployment rates fell from June to July. Lincoln County and Fremont County posted the largest declines, both falling by 0.8 percentage points (down from 5.4% to 4.6% and 5.7% to 4.9%, respectively). Other counties with large declines included Uinta (down from 5.4% to 4.7%), Teton (down from 2.5% to 1.8%), Converse (down from 4.7% to 4.1%), Carbon (down from 4.5% to 3.9%), and Campbell (down from 4.0% to 3.4%). Hot Springs unemployment rate was unchanged at 2.3 percent, while unemployment increased slightly in Weston, Albany, and Sublette counties.





State Unemployment Rates July 2003 (Seasonally Adjusted)

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.1 |
| Oregon | 8.1 |
| Alaska | 7.9 |
| Washington | 7.5 |
| Louisiana | 7.4 |
| Michigan | 7.4 |
| Mississippi | 7.2 |
| South Carolina | 7.0 |
| West Virginia | 6.8 |
| California | 6.6 |
| North Carolina | 6.6 |
| Texas | 6.6 |
| District of Columbia | 6.5 |
| Illinois | 6.5 |
| Ohio | 6.2 |
| United States | 6.2 |
| Arizona | 6.1 |
| Kentucky | 6.1 |
| New Jersey | 6.1 |
| New Mexico | 6.1 |
| New York | 6.1 |
| Alabama | 5.7 |
| Colorado | 5.7 |
| Idaho | 5.6 |
| Missouri | 5.6 |
| Pennsylvania | 5.6 |
| Rhode Island | 5.6 |
| Wisconsin | 5.6 |
| Arkansas | 5.5 |
| Oklahoma | 5.5 |
| Massachusetts | 5.4 |
| Nevada | 5.4 |
| Florida | 5.3 |
| Indiana | 5.3 |
| Connecticut | 5.2 |
| Utah | 5.2 |
| Georgia | 5.0 |
| Kansas | 5.0 |
| Tennessee | 5.0 |
| Maine | 4.9 |
| Montana | 4.7 |
| Iowa | 4.6 |
| Maryland | 4.6 |
| Minnesota | 4.6 |
| New Hampshire | 4.3 |
| Delaware | 4.1 |
| Vermont | 4.1 |
| Wyoming | 4.1 |
| Hawaii | 4.0 |
| Virginia | 4.0 |
| Nebraska | 3.9 |
| North Dakota | 3.6 |
| South Dakota | 3.3 |



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Wyoming job growth continued at a very slow pace (up 1,600 jobs or 0.6%) while the U.S. lost jobs (down 404,000 or 0.3%).”

| WYOMING STATEWIDE* | Employment in Thousands | | | | | Percent Change Total Employment | | LARAMIE COUNTY | Employment in Thousands | | | | | Percent Change Total Employment | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------|--|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Jun 03 | | Jul 02 | | Jun 03 | Jul 02 | Jun 03 | | Jul 02 | | Jun 03 | Jul 02 | | | |
| | Jul03(p) | Jun03(r) | Jul02(b) | Jul 03 | Jul 02 | Jul 03 | Jul 02 | | Jul03(p) | Jun03(r) | Jul02(b) | Jul 03 | Jul 02 | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 256.2 | 259.5 | 254.6 | -1.3 | 0.6 | | | TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 40.4 | 40.4 | 39.9 | 0.0 | 1.3 | | |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 197.2 | 194.7 | 196.4 | 1.3 | 0.4 | | | TOTAL PRIVATE | 28.2 | 27.9 | 28.1 | 1.1 | 0.4 | | |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 49.1 | 48.6 | 49.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | | | GOODS PRODUCING | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 0.0 | -4.8 | | |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 18.1 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 0.0 | -0.5 | | | Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 0.0 | -7.4 | | |
| Mining | 18.0 | 18.1 | 18.1 | -0.6 | -0.6 | | | Manufacturing | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.2 | -2.9 | 3.1 | | | SERVICE PROVIDING | 36.4 | 36.4 | 35.7 | 0.0 | 2.0 | | |
| Mining Except Oil & Gas | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 1.3 | 0.0 | | | Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.3 | -1.2 | 1.2 | | |
| Coal Mining | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Wholesale Trade | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Support Activities for Mining | 7.0 | 7.1 | 7.2 | -1.4 | -2.8 | | | Retail Trade | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 1.8 | | |
| Support Activities for Oil & Gas | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.0 | -2.0 | 0.0 | | | Information | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 | | |
| Construction | 21.6 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 1.9 | 0.9 | | | Financial Activities | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Construction of Buildings | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 0.0 | -2.0 | | | Professional & Business Services | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 0.0 | | |
| Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr. | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 3.4 | 5.2 | | | Educational & Health Services | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 8.0 | | |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 10.5 | 10.3 | 10.5 | 1.9 | 0.0 | | | Leisure & Hospitality | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.3 | -2.0 | | |
| Manufacturing | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.5 | 1.1 | -1.1 | | | Other Services | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 6.7 | 0.0 | | |
| Durable Goods | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 2.1 | -4.0 | | | TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 12.2 | 12.5 | 11.8 | -2.4 | 3.4 | | |
| Non-Durable Goods | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 0.0 | 2.2 | | | Federal Government | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 4.0 | | |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 207.1 | 210.9 | 205.5 | -1.8 | 0.8 | | | State Government | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 2.6 | | |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 49.5 | 49.3 | 49.8 | 0.4 | -0.6 | | | Local Government | 5.7 | 6.0 | 5.5 | -5.0 | 3.6 | | |
| Wholesale Trade | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 0.0 | -1.4 | | | NATRONA COUNTY* | | | | | | | |
| Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable Goods | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 0.0 | -2.4 | | | TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 34.1 | 35.1 | 33.6 | -2.8 | 1.5 | | |
| Retail Trade | 31.1 | 31.0 | 31.4 | 0.3 | -1.0 | | | TOTAL PRIVATE | 29.2 | 29.4 | 28.7 | -0.7 | 1.7 | | |
| Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | GOODS PRODUCING | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 5.2 | | |
| Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Natural Resources & Mining | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Food & Beverage Stores | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 2.0 | 0.0 | | | Construction | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 8.7 | | |
| Grocery Stores | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.6 | -2.4 | | | Manufacturing | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 6.7 | | |
| Gasoline Stations | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 0.0 | -4.4 | | | SERVICE PROVIDING | 28.0 | 29.0 | 27.8 | -3.4 | 0.7 | | |
| General Merchandise Stores | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 0.0 | | | Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8.0 | -3.7 | -2.5 | | |
| Miscellaneous Store Retailers | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Wholesale Trade | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | -4.3 | -4.3 | | |
| Transportation, Warehouse, & Util. | 11.4 | 11.3 | 11.3 | 0.9 | 0.9 | | | Retail Trade | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 | -4.3 | -2.2 | | |
| Utilities | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | | | Transportation, Warehouse, & Util. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Information | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Truck Transportation | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Financial Activities | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Information | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 4.9 | | | Professional & Business Services | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 0.0 | 3.2 | | |
| Financial Activities | 10.3 | 10.4 | 10.4 | -1.0 | -1.0 | | | Educational & Health Services | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 0.0 | 4.8 | | |
| Finance & Insurance | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 0.0 | 3.0 | | | Leisure & Hospitality | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | | |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | -2.8 | -7.9 | | | Other Services | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Professional & Business Services | 16.2 | 16.2 | 16.5 | 0.0 | -1.8 | | | TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 4.9 | 5.7 | 4.9 | -14.0 | 0.0 | | |
| Prof., Scientific & Technical Services | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.5 | -1.4 | -2.7 | | | Federal Government | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 16.7 | 0.0 | | |
| Architectural, Engineering & Rel. | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | | | State Government | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.0 | -12.5 | | |
| Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | Local Government | 3.5 | 4.4 | 3.4 | -20.5 | 2.9 | | |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs. | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 1.2 | -1.2 | | | Local Education | 1.8 | 2.8 | 1.9 | -35.7 | -5.3 | | |
| Educational & Health Services | 20.3 | 20.1 | 19.9 | 1.0 | 2.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Educational | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 12.5 | -14.3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 18.5 | 18.5 | 17.8 | 0.0 | 3.9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 1.4 | 6.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Offices of Physicians | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 7.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hospitals | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nursing & Residential Care Fac. | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social Assistance | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.2 | -4.3 | 4.8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 37.5 | 35.9 | 36.7 | 4.5 | 2.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 9.4 | 6.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 34.0 | 32.7 | 33.4 | 4.0 | 1.8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accommodation | 14.3 | 13.5 | 13.9 | 5.9 | 2.9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Serv. & Drinking Places | 19.7 | 19.2 | 19.5 | 2.6 | 1.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Services | 10.0 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Repair & Maintenance | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 0.0 | -6.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 59.0 | 64.8 | 58.2 | -9.0 | 1.4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal Government | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| State Government | 14.3 | 14.6 | 14.0 | -2.1 | 2.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| State Govt. Education | 4.7 | 5.3 | 4.7 | -11.3 | 0.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Government | 36.3 | 41.9 | 35.9 | -13.4 | 1.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Govt. Education | 14.8 | 20.9 | 15.0 | -29.2 | -1.3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hospitals | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 0.0 | -1.8 | | | | | | | | | | |

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

*Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Continued

Note: The data for these three counties will now be included as a regular feature in *Trends*.

| | Employment in Thousands | | | Percent Change Total Employment | |
|--|----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | Jul03(p) | Jun03(r) | Jul02(r) | Jun 03 | Jul 02 |
| | | | | Jul 03 | Jul 03 |
| CAMPBELL COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 21.3 | 21.3 | 22.0 | 0.0 | -3.2 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 18.1 | 17.5 | 18.9 | 3.4 | -4.2 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 8.8 | 8.5 | 9.4 | 3.5 | -6.4 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 1.7 | -6.3 |
| Construction | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 9.5 | -8.0 |
| Manufacturing | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 12.5 | 12.8 | 12.6 | -2.3 | -0.8 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| Information | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 7.7 | -6.7 |
| Educational & Health Services | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 0.0 | -11.1 |
| Other Services | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.0 | -12.5 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.1 | -15.8 | 3.2 |
| SWEETWATER COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 19.4 | 19.8 | 19.1 | -2.0 | 1.6 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 15.9 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 1.9 | 2.6 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Natural Resources & Mining | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 5.9 |
| Construction | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | -15.4 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 13.4 | 13.9 | 13.1 | -3.6 | 2.3 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| Information | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 12.5 |
| Educational & Health Services | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 12.5 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Other Services | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 3.5 | 4.2 | 3.6 | -16.7 | -2.8 |
| TETON COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT | 20.4 | 18.6 | 20.6 | 9.7 | -1.0 |
| TOTAL PRIVATE | 18.1 | 16.2 | 18.3 | 11.7 | -1.1 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 0.0 | -10.3 |
| Nat. Res., Mining & Construction | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 0.0 | -11.1 |
| Manufacturing | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SERVICE PROVIDING | 17.8 | 16.0 | 17.7 | 11.3 | 0.6 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| Information | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Financial Activities | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 12.5 |
| Professional & Business Services | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0.0 | -5.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 14.3 | 0.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8.1 | 6.4 | 8.1 | 26.6 | 0.0 |
| Other Services | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | -4.2 | 0.0 |

State Unemployment Rates July 2003 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| State | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico | 12.4 |
| Michigan | 8.0 |
| Oregon | 7.8 |
| Louisiana | 7.6 |
| South Carolina | 7.4 |
| Washington | 7.4 |
| Mississippi | 7.2 |
| Texas | 7.1 |
| Alaska | 6.9 |
| California | 6.9 |
| District of Columbia | 6.9 |
| North Carolina | 6.9 |
| West Virginia | 6.7 |
| Arizona | 6.6 |
| Illinois | 6.6 |
| New Jersey | 6.5 |
| New Mexico | 6.5 |
| Ohio | 6.4 |
| United States | 6.3 |
| Kentucky | 6.2 |
| New York | 6.1 |
| Arkansas | 6.0 |
| Alabama | 5.8 |
| Missouri | 5.8 |
| Colorado | 5.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 5.7 |
| Massachusetts | 5.6 |
| Florida | 5.5 |
| Rhode Island | 5.5 |
| Utah | 5.5 |
| Wisconsin | 5.5 |
| Connecticut | 5.4 |
| Indiana | 5.4 |
| Nevada | 5.4 |
| Oklahoma | 5.4 |
| Tennessee | 5.4 |
| Georgia | 5.2 |
| Idaho | 5.0 |
| Kansas | 5.0 |
| Maryland | 4.7 |
| Minnesota | 4.4 |
| Hawaii | 4.3 |
| Montana | 4.2 |
| Iowa | 4.1 |
| Maine | 4.1 |
| Nebraska | 4.1 |
| Virginia | 4.1 |
| Delaware | 4.0 |
| New Hampshire | 4.0 |
| Vermont | 3.7 |
| Wyoming | 3.5 |
| North Dakota | 3.3 |
| South Dakota | 3.1 |

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming increased 40.9 percent from a year earlier.”

| | Jul 2003 (p) | Jun 2003 (r) | Jul 2002 (b) | Percent Change Month | Year |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------|
| Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force ¹ | 282,220 | 282,122 | 276,003 | 0.0 | 2.3 |
| Unemployed | 9,824 | 10,877 | 9,645 | -9.7 | 1.9 |
| Employed | 272,396 | 271,245 | 266,358 | 0.4 | 2.3 |
| Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted | 3.5%/4.1% | 3.9%/4.2% | 3.5%/4.1% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted | 6.3%/6.2% | 6.5%/6.4% | 5.9%/5.8% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Multiple Jobholders | 7,304,000 | 7,313,000 | 7,247,000 | -0.1 | 0.8 |
| As a percent of all workers | 5.3% | 5.3% | 5.3% | N/A | N/A |
| U.S. Discouraged Workers | 470,000 | 478,000 | 405,000 | -1.7 | 16.0 |
| U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons | 4,870,000 | 4,798,000 | 4,352,000 | 1.5 | 11.9 |
| Hours & Earnings for Production Workers | | | | | |
| Wyoming Mining | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$967.82 | \$975.04 | \$921.02 | -0.7 | 5.1 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 43.4 | 44.3 | 43.9 | -2.0 | -1.1 |
| U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$803.23 | \$797.85 | \$775.59 | 0.7 | 3.6 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 45.1 | 45.0 | 44.6 | 0.2 | 1.1 |
| Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$744.80 | \$729.79 | \$733.24 | 2.1 | 1.6 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 40.0 | 43.7 | 40.6 | -8.5 | -1.5 |
| U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings | | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$621.72 | \$635.45 | \$607.68 | -2.2 | 2.3 |
| Average Weekly Hours | 39.6 | 40.5 | 39.9 | -2.2 | -0.8 |
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance | | | | | |
| Weeks Compensated ² | 13,093 | 12,113 | 12,041 | 8.1 | 8.7 |
| Benefits Paid | \$3,029,341 | \$2,788,912 | \$2,719,639 | 8.6 | 11.4 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment | \$231.37 | \$230.24 | \$225.86 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| State Insured Covered Jobs ¹ | 231,584 | 236,366 | 230,611 | -2.0 | 0.4 |
| Insured Unemployment Rate | 1.4% | 1.6% | 1.4% | N/A | N/A |
| Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items | | | | | |
| Food & Beverages | 183.9 | 183.7 | 180.1 | 0.1 | 2.1 |
| Housing | 180.3 | 180.2 | 176.6 | 0.1 | 2.1 |
| Apparel | 185.9 | 185.3 | 181.2 | 0.3 | 2.6 |
| Transportation | 116.2 | 119.5 | 118.7 | -2.8 | -2.1 |
| Medical Care | 156.8 | 156.8 | 153.7 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Recreation (Dec. 1997=100) | 297.6 | 296.3 | 286.6 | 0.4 | 3.8 |
| Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100) | 107.7 | 107.6 | 106.2 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Other Goods & Services | 108.9 | 108.5 | 107.6 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Other Goods & Services | 299.2 | 298.1 | 294.5 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities | 137.8 | 138.0 | 131.2 | -0.1 | 5.0 |
| Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized) | | | | | |
| Total Units | 224 | 193 | 174 | 16.1 | 28.7 |
| Valuation | \$37,229,000 | \$30,080,000 | \$28,621,000 | 23.8 | 30.1 |
| Single Family Homes | 196 | 181 | 154 | 8.3 | 27.3 |
| Valuation | \$34,481,000 | \$28,774,000 | \$27,602,000 | 19.8 | 24.9 |
| Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY | 62 | 63 | 44 | -1.6 | 40.9 |

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked. ¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program Estimates. ²Not Normalized.

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“Hot Springs County’s unemployment rate was unchanged at 2.3 percent, while unemployment increased slightly in Weston, Albany, and Sublette counties.”

| REGION County | Labor Force | | | Employed | | | Unemployed | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Jul 2003 (p) | Jun 2003 (r) | Jul 2002 (b) |
| NORTHWEST | 49,091 | 49,112 | 48,438 | 47,261 | 47,064 | 46,379 | 1,830 | 2,048 | 2,059 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Big Horn | 5,709 | 5,904 | 5,697 | 5,514 | 5,692 | 5,434 | 195 | 212 | 263 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| Fremont | 18,569 | 18,775 | 18,360 | 17,650 | 17,703 | 17,388 | 919 | 1,072 | 972 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.3 |
| Hot Springs | 2,307 | 2,370 | 2,448 | 2,254 | 2,316 | 2,366 | 53 | 54 | 82 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 3.3 |
| Park | 18,007 | 17,589 | 17,267 | 17,474 | 17,033 | 16,733 | 533 | 556 | 534 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Washakie | 4,499 | 4,474 | 4,666 | 4,369 | 4,320 | 4,458 | 130 | 154 | 208 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| NORTHEAST | 48,497 | 49,117 | 48,014 | 46,945 | 47,367 | 46,682 | 1,552 | 1,750 | 1,332 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 2.8 |
| Campbell | 22,949 | 22,962 | 23,156 | 22,167 | 22,040 | 22,451 | 782 | 922 | 705 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| Crook | 3,094 | 3,214 | 3,053 | 2,999 | 3,108 | 2,978 | 95 | 106 | 75 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 2.5 |
| Johnson | 4,313 | 4,408 | 4,229 | 4,222 | 4,294 | 4,152 | 91 | 114 | 77 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 1.8 |
| Sheridan | 14,809 | 15,137 | 14,314 | 14,324 | 14,625 | 13,925 | 485 | 512 | 389 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 2.7 |
| Weston | 3,332 | 3,396 | 3,262 | 3,233 | 3,300 | 3,176 | 99 | 96 | 86 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| SOUTHWEST | 58,151 | 56,808 | 56,435 | 56,123 | 54,479 | 54,262 | 2,028 | 2,329 | 2,173 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| Lincoln | 7,165 | 7,063 | 7,044 | 6,838 | 6,680 | 6,738 | 327 | 383 | 306 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 4.3 |
| Sublette | 3,865 | 3,798 | 3,802 | 3,777 | 3,715 | 3,727 | 88 | 83 | 75 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| Sweetwater | 20,089 | 20,282 | 19,340 | 19,299 | 19,414 | 18,402 | 790 | 868 | 938 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.9 |
| Teton | 15,195 | 13,664 | 15,063 | 14,923 | 13,316 | 14,827 | 272 | 348 | 236 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.6 |
| Uinta | 11,837 | 12,001 | 11,186 | 11,286 | 11,354 | 10,568 | 551 | 647 | 618 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| SOUTHEAST | 75,056 | 75,078 | 73,128 | 72,745 | 72,624 | 70,935 | 2,311 | 2,454 | 2,193 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Albany | 18,508 | 18,873 | 18,031 | 18,179 | 18,546 | 17,711 | 329 | 327 | 320 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Goshen | 6,172 | 6,344 | 6,121 | 5,964 | 6,107 | 5,907 | 208 | 237 | 214 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Laramie | 44,673 | 43,996 | 43,288 | 43,101 | 42,331 | 41,841 | 1,572 | 1,665 | 1,447 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| Niobrara | 1,198 | 1,203 | 1,229 | 1,175 | 1,174 | 1,192 | 23 | 29 | 37 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 3.0 |
| Platte | 4,505 | 4,662 | 4,459 | 4,326 | 4,466 | 4,284 | 179 | 196 | 175 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| CENTRAL | 51,428 | 52,007 | 49,986 | 49,324 | 49,711 | 48,101 | 2,104 | 2,296 | 1,885 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.8 |
| Carbon | 8,306 | 8,551 | 8,400 | 7,985 | 8,168 | 8,133 | 321 | 383 | 267 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 3.2 |
| Converse | 6,429 | 6,415 | 6,313 | 6,168 | 6,115 | 6,087 | 261 | 300 | 226 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 3.6 |
| Natrona | 36,693 | 37,041 | 35,273 | 35,171 | 35,428 | 33,881 | 1,522 | 1,613 | 1,392 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 3.9 |
| STATEWIDE | 282,220 | 282,122 | 276,003 | 272,396 | 271,245 | 266,358 | 9,824 | 10,877 | 9,645 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.5 |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| U.S..... | | | | | | | | | | 6.3 | 6.5 | 5.9 |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted..... | | | | | | | | | | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.8 |

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/03. Run Date 8/03.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

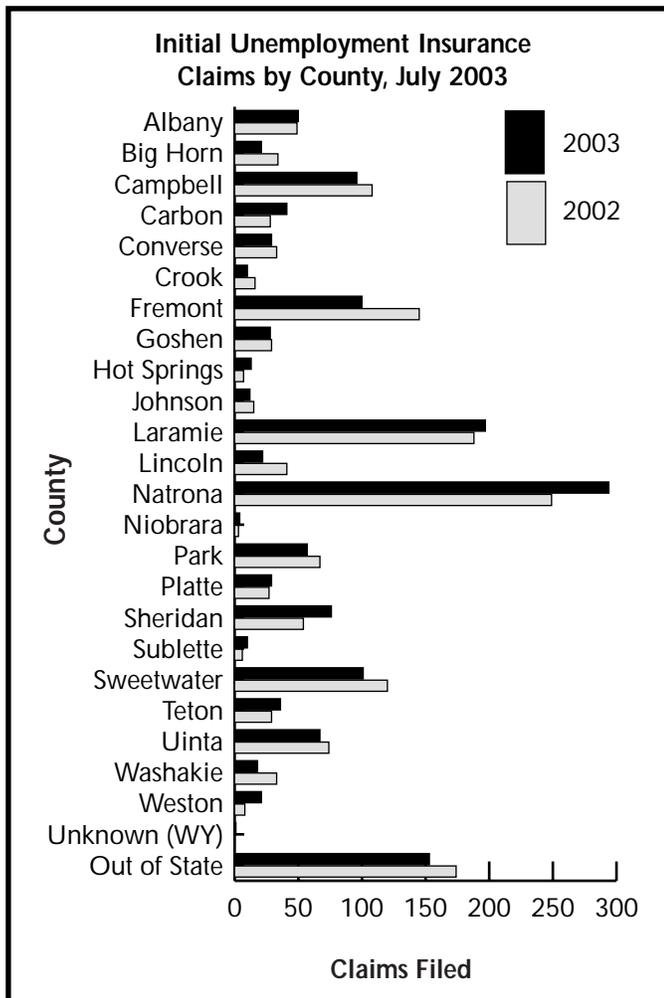
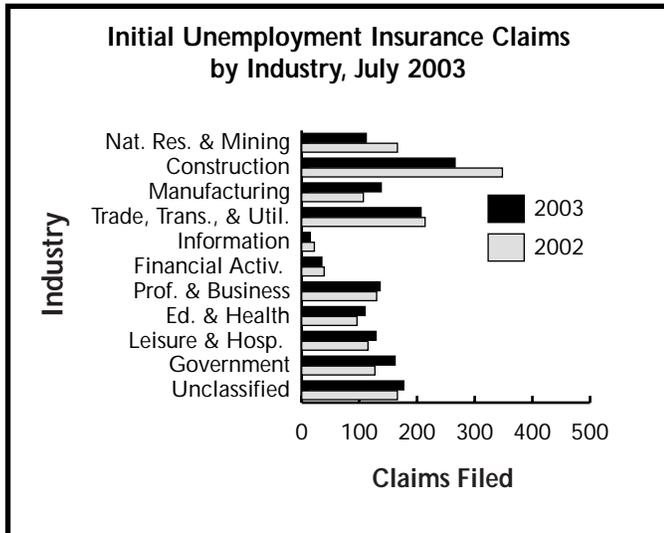
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2002 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.2 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.7 to 4.7 percent would contain the actual rate.

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

“Statewide initial claims declined 9.0 percent over the month and 3.2 percent over the year. Declines were concentrated in the goods-producing sector (except Manufacturing).”



| | Claims Filed | | | Percent Change | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | Jul 03 | Jun 03 | Jul 02 | Jul 03 | Jul 02 |
| WYOMING STATEWIDE | | | | | |
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 1,487 | 1,634 | 1,536 | -9.0 | -3.2 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 516 | 565 | 621 | -8.7 | -16.9 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 112 | 91 | 166 | 23.1 | -32.5 |
| Mining | 100 | 82 | 143 | 22.0 | -30.1 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 14 | 6 | 19 | 133.3 | -26.3 |
| Construction | 266 | 394 | 348 | -32.5 | -23.6 |
| Manufacturing | 138 | 80 | 107 | 72.5 | 29.0 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 667 | 735 | 657 | -9.3 | 1.5 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 207 | 216 | 214 | -4.2 | -3.3 |
| Wholesale Trade | 41 | 32 | 38 | 28.1 | 7.9 |
| Retail Trade | 127 | 114 | 117 | 11.4 | 8.5 |
| Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities | 39 | 70 | 59 | -44.3 | -33.9 |
| Information | 15 | 23 | 22 | -34.8 | -31.8 |
| Financial Activities | 35 | 32 | 39 | 9.4 | -10.3 |
| Professional & Business Services | 136 | 124 | 130 | 9.7 | 4.6 |
| Educational & Health Services | 110 | 131 | 96 | -16.0 | 14.6 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 129 | 158 | 115 | -18.4 | 12.2 |
| Other Services | 35 | 51 | 41 | -31.4 | -14.6 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 162 | 190 | 127 | -14.7 | 27.6 |
| Federal Government | 22 | 30 | 16 | -26.7 | 37.5 |
| State Government | 26 | 17 | 27 | 52.9 | -3.7 |
| Local Government | 114 | 143 | 84 | -20.3 | 35.7 |
| Local Education | 53 | 73 | 45 | -27.4 | 17.8 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 142 | 144 | 131 | -1.4 | 8.4 |

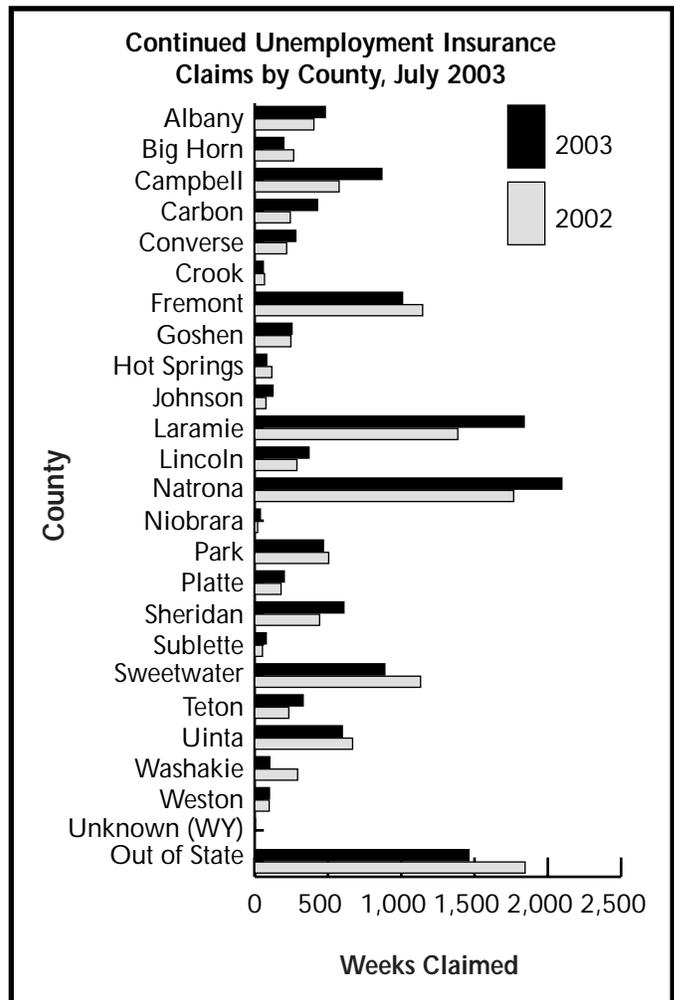
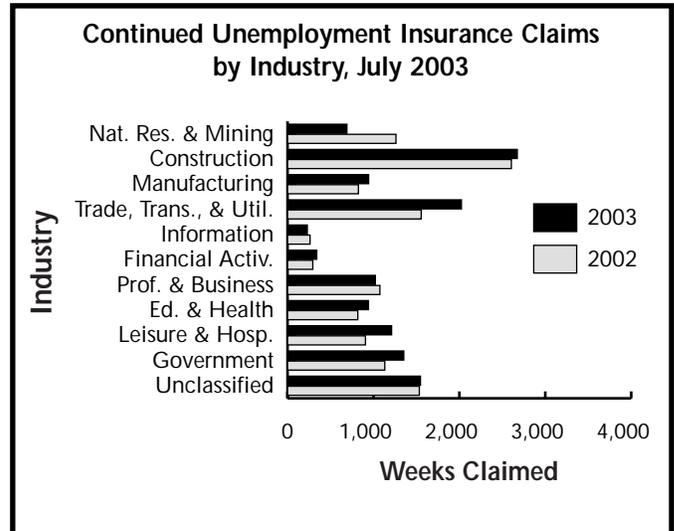
| LARAMIE COUNTY | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 196 | 221 | 189 | -11.3 | 3.7 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 43 | 38 | 41 | 13.2 | 4.9 |
| Construction | 36 | 34 | 33 | 5.9 | 9.1 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 115 | 135 | 112 | -14.8 | 2.7 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 37 | 48 | 29 | -22.9 | 27.6 |
| Financial Activities | 6 | 9 | 11 | -33.3 | -45.5 |
| Professional & Business Services | 33 | 22 | 13 | 50.0 | 153.8 |
| Educational & Health Services | 18 | 13 | 23 | 38.5 | -21.7 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 17 | 25 | 17 | -32.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 26 | 36 | 23 | -27.8 | 13.0 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 12 | 12 | 13 | 0.0 | -7.7 |

| NATRONA COUNTY | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED | 295 | 279 | 247 | 5.7 | 19.4 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 150 | 113 | 94 | 32.7 | 59.6 |
| Construction | 40 | 65 | 42 | -38.5 | -4.8 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 130 | 146 | 135 | -11.0 | -3.7 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 35 | 28 | 36 | 25.0 | -2.8 |
| Financial Activities | 11 | 8 | 4 | 37.5 | 175.0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 25 | 27 | 36 | -7.4 | -30.6 |
| Educational & Health Services | 19 | 43 | 22 | -55.8 | -13.6 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 29 | 21 | 28 | 38.1 | 3.6 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 11 | 11 | 10 | 0.0 | 10.0 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 4 | 9 | 8 | -55.6 | -50.0 |

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

“Large over-the-year declines were posted in Natural Resources & Mining, while a substantial increase occurred in the service-providing sector.”

| WYOMING STATEWIDE | Claims Filed | | Percent Change Claims Filed | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| | Jul 03 | Jun 03 | Jul 02 | Jun 03 | Jul 03 |
| | Jul 03 | Jun 03 | Jul 02 | Jul 03 | Jul 03 |
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 12,978 | 14,499 | 12,270 | -10.5 | 5.8 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 3,459 | 4,569 | 3,232 | -24.3 | 7.0 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 4,309 | 5,214 | 4,692 | -17.4 | -8.2 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 691 | 983 | 1,262 | -29.7 | -45.2 |
| Mining | 620 | 893 | 1,152 | -30.6 | -46.2 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction | 48 | 58 | 157 | -17.2 | -69.4 |
| Construction | 2,674 | 3,160 | 2,605 | -15.4 | 2.6 |
| Manufacturing | 944 | 1,071 | 825 | -11.9 | 14.4 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 6,199 | 6,790 | 5,278 | -8.7 | 17.4 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 2,024 | 2,254 | 1,556 | -10.2 | 30.1 |
| Wholesale Trade | 387 | 365 | 296 | 6.0 | 30.7 |
| Retail Trade | 1,115 | 1,278 | 962 | -12.8 | 15.9 |
| Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities | 522 | 611 | 298 | -14.6 | 75.2 |
| Information | 230 | 214 | 262 | 7.5 | -12.2 |
| Financial Activities | 340 | 343 | 294 | -0.9 | 15.6 |
| Professional & Business Services | 1,022 | 1,110 | 1,075 | -7.9 | -4.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 942 | 901 | 818 | 4.6 | 15.2 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1,211 | 1,495 | 907 | -19.0 | 33.5 |
| Other Services | 430 | 473 | 366 | -9.1 | 17.5 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 1,353 | 1,240 | 1,132 | 9.1 | 19.5 |
| Federal Government | 219 | 281 | 164 | -22.1 | 33.5 |
| State Government | 196 | 195 | 188 | 0.5 | 4.3 |
| Local Government | 938 | 764 | 780 | 22.8 | 20.3 |
| Local Education | 354 | 228 | 393 | 55.3 | -9.9 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 1,117 | 1,255 | 1,168 | -11.0 | -4.4 |
| LARAMIE COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 1,839 | 1,815 | 1,386 | 1.3 | 32.7 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 467 | 548 | 364 | -14.8 | 28.3 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 393 | 486 | 274 | -19.1 | 43.4 |
| Construction | 324 | 396 | 191 | -18.2 | 69.6 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 1,163 | 1,061 | 847 | 9.6 | 37.3 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 371 | 328 | 196 | 13.1 | 89.3 |
| Financial Activities | 63 | 66 | 58 | -4.5 | 8.6 |
| Professional & Business Services | 223 | 200 | 180 | 11.5 | 23.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 91 | 90 | 108 | 1.1 | -15.7 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 219 | 179 | 104 | 22.3 | 110.6 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 209 | 188 | 145 | 11.2 | 44.1 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 74 | 80 | 120 | -7.5 | -38.3 |
| NATRONA COUNTY | | | | | |
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED | 2,095 | 2,064 | 1,766 | 1.5 | 18.6 |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS | 583 | 662 | 478 | -11.9 | 22.0 |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING | 714 | 727 | 613 | -1.8 | 16.5 |
| Construction | 341 | 381 | 303 | -10.5 | 12.5 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING | 1,179 | 1,150 | 981 | 2.5 | 20.2 |
| Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util. | 328 | 377 | 325 | -13.0 | 0.9 |
| Financial Activities | 80 | 73 | 52 | 9.6 | 53.8 |
| Professional & Business Services | 210 | 209 | 205 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Educational & Health Services | 248 | 195 | 178 | 27.2 | 39.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 179 | 185 | 130 | -3.2 | 37.7 |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT | 138 | 114 | 103 | 21.1 | 34.0 |
| UNCLASSIFIED | 64 | 73 | 69 | -12.3 | -7.2 |



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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. G-12
Cheyenne, WY