

# TRENDS

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## A Study of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients and Exhaustees

by: Sherry Y. Wen, Senior Economist

*The recent energy-related economic expansion in Wyoming seems to be more beneficial to younger workers and men when examining factors such as wages and part-time versus full-time employment. Based on Current Population Survey data, in Wyoming in 2007 the percentage of women working part-time was more than twice the percentage of men working part-time. Recent data also show that women in Wyoming generally earn lower wages than men (Jones, 2008b).*

With growing energy prices, Wyoming has experienced rapid employment growth for the past two years. Annual average employment grew at 4.9% in 2006 and 4.0% in 2007. Even though the national economy slowed and eliminated more than 438,000 jobs from January 2008 to June 2008 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008a), Wyoming still experienced 3.4% growth between first quarter 2007 and first quarter 2008. Meanwhile, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been ranked the lowest in the nation. In April and May 2008, the rate was 2.6% and 2.9%, respectively,

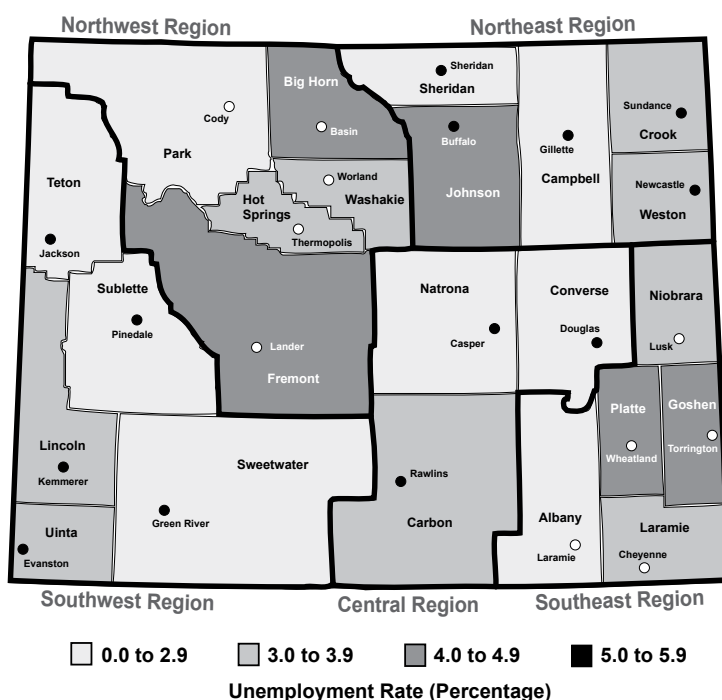
compared with the national average of 5.0% and 5.5% for the same periods. However, the state's continued employment growth and lower unemployment rates do not necessarily lead to equitable job opportunities for all workers. In this study we examine which workers have benefitted from recent growth and which workers still rely on Wyoming's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system for financial help. We also investigate whether the number of UI benefit recipients and exhaustees has changed with the state's economic growth.

(Text continued on page 3)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Research & Planning recently updated a series of tables on its Wyoming Labor Market Information website. These updated tables show revised annual earnings by age and gender for 2006 and preliminary data for 2007....page 12
- Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.2% in June to 3.6% in July. Unemployment has been slowly increasing from its recent low of 2.6% in April. July's unemployment rate is the highest for Wyoming since November 2005....page 20

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



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## Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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**Gary W. Child, Director**

**Research & Planning**

**P.O. Box 2760**

**Casper, WY 82602-2760**

**doerd\_r&p\_web@state.wy.us**

**307-473-3807**

**Tom Gallagher, Manager**

**Dr. Mark A. Harris, Workforce  
Information Supervisor**

**Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor  
Statistics Programs Supervisor**

**Phil Ellsworth, Editor**

**April Szuch, Associate Editor**

**Editorial Committee: David Bullard,  
Valerie A. Davis, Phil Ellsworth,  
Dr. Mark A. Harris, and April Szuch.**

Contributors to *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* this month: David Bullard, Carola Cowan, Margaret Hiatt, Sylvia D. Jones, Douglas W. Leonard, April Szuch, and Sherry Y. Wen.

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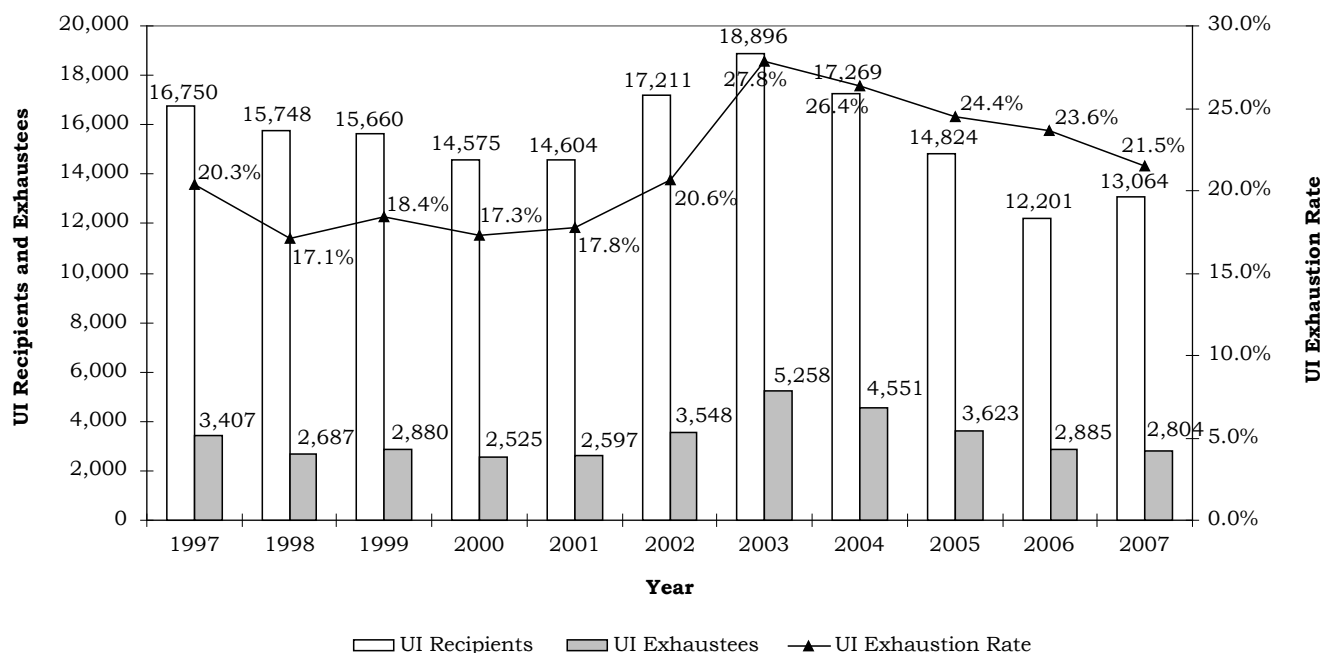
(Text continued from page 1)

UI exhaustees are UI benefit recipients who exhausted their regular eligible benefits. The amount and duration of UI benefits an unemployed worker is allowed to collect depends on that worker's four quarters of earnings prior to the layoff quarter. Individuals can qualify for up to 26 weeks of regular UI benefits. In 2007, the Wyoming average weekly benefit was \$278.28 and the average duration of benefit collection was 12.7 weeks. The exhaustion rate is the number of benefit exhaustees divided by the number of UI recipients. Because an increasing number of UI exhaustees indicates that more people ran out of qualified UI benefits before they were able to return to work, a higher exhaustion rate means a large proportion of UI recipients were having difficulty finding a job.

## UI Recipients and Exhaustion Rates Before and After 2003

Wyoming's worst economic performance in the last decade occurred in 2003. That year, employment growth was flat (less than 1.0%) while UI claims rose to a 10-year high following the national economic recession in 2001 and 2002 (Wen, 2003). Figure 1 shows that during this period, a total of 18,896 unemployed workers received UI benefits (UI recipients). Of those, 27.8% exhausted their regular benefits. In 2003 both the number of UI recipients and the exhaustion rate reached their highest levels of the 1997-2007 period. Since 2003, the exhaustion rate has gradually declined while the number of UI recipients has also decreased, with the exception of 2007. However, compared with the years before 2003, the annual exhaustion rates since 2003 have been generally much higher for a similar or

**Figure 1: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Recipients, Exhaustees, and Exhaustion Rates, 1997-2007**



smaller number of annual UI recipients. For example, only 12,201 unemployed workers received UI benefits in 2006, the lowest in 11 years. At the same time, the exhaustion rate was higher than any of the pre-2003 years, despite the fact that those years had higher UI recipient levels than 2006. These higher exhaustion rates indicate that since 2003, more unemployed workers collected their regular qualified UI benefits to the point of exhaustion. This result is just the opposite of what we would expect with the strong state economy and job growth. The following analysis explores factors associated with this unusual phenomenon.

### Age Differences

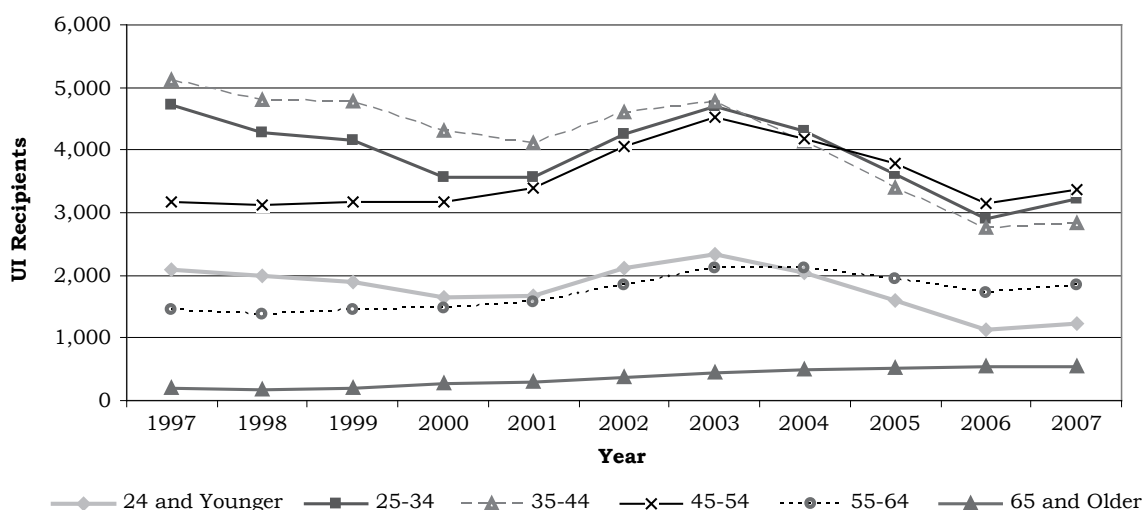
With the exception of those 65 and older, the number of recipients for all ages was at or near historic highs during the economic downturn in 2003 (see Figure 2). The general long-term trends from 1997 to 2007 reveal that those age 44 and younger had an overall decline in UI recipients. All the younger age groups had more than 30% fewer individuals receiving UI benefits in

2007 compared with 1997. For example, the number of UI recipients age 35 to 44 decreased from 5,105 in 1997 to 2,838 in 2007 (-44.4%). In contrast, there was a steady increase among UI recipients age 45 and older. This was especially true for those 65 and older. The number of recipients in this age group more than doubled from 200 individuals in 1997 to 553 in 2007.

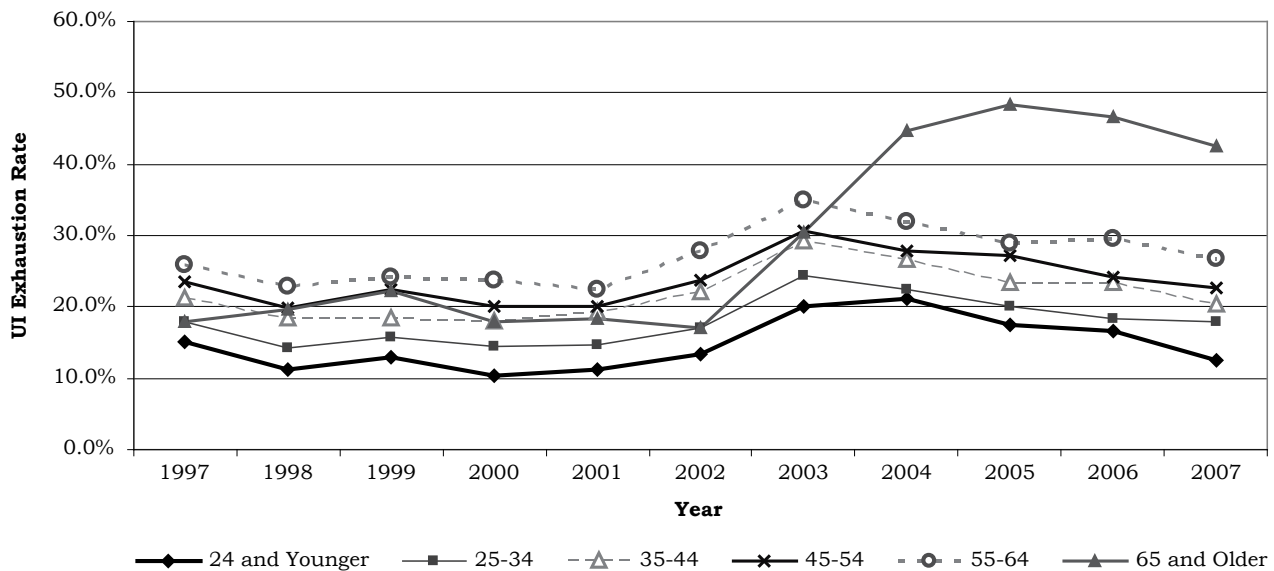
The exhaustion rate rose dramatically for these older recipients, from 17.2% in 2002 to 48.4% in 2005, and then decreased slightly to 42.5% in 2007 (see Figure 3, page 5). During the same time other age groups kept the same general pattern: Younger groups usually had a lower exhaustion rate than older groups, possibly because of more flexibility with factors such as family, marriage, worker skills, work location, and transportation. Consequently, they may have more job opportunities and return to work more quickly than older workers after receiving UI benefits.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2008b), national employment for workers age 65 and older increased 101%

Figure 2: Wyoming Annual Unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Age, 1997-2007





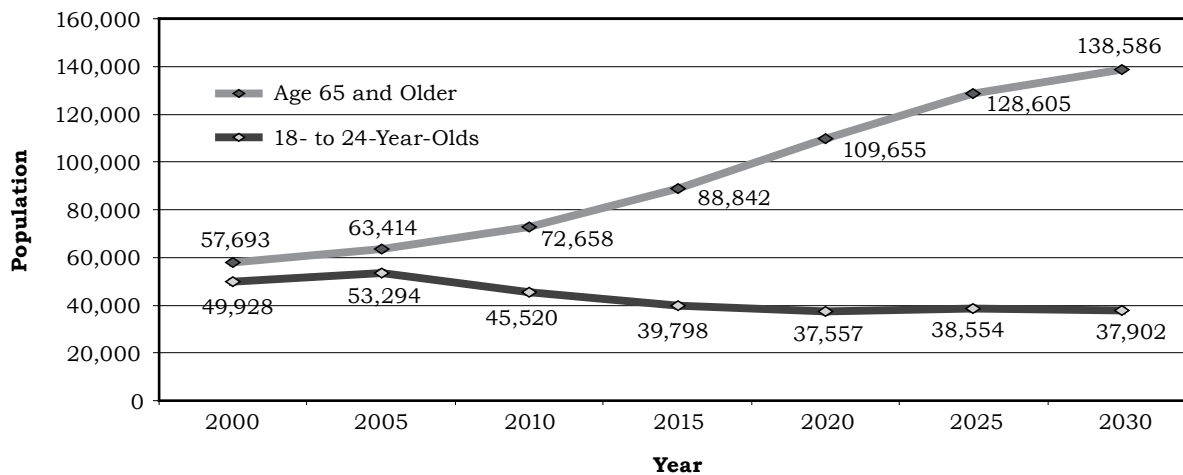
**Figure 3: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Exhaustion Rates by Age, 1997-2007**

between 1977 and 2007. The share of older workers in the labor force has been rising since the late 1990s. This seems consistent with our findings in Wyoming: a steady increase in UI recipients age 65 and older from 1997 to 2007. From 1997 to 2007, the number of traditional retirement-age workers almost doubled in Wyoming, from 6,203 (2.2% of total) to 11,556 (3.1%), respectively (Jones, 2008a). Reasons for the increasing number of retirement-age workers and UI recipients may include: 1) Retirement funds were insufficient due to financial or investment companies crises such as Enron; 2) Medical bills, food and fuel costs, and other expenses were greater than retirement funds; 3) Desire for lifestyle enrichment (Carpenter, 2008).

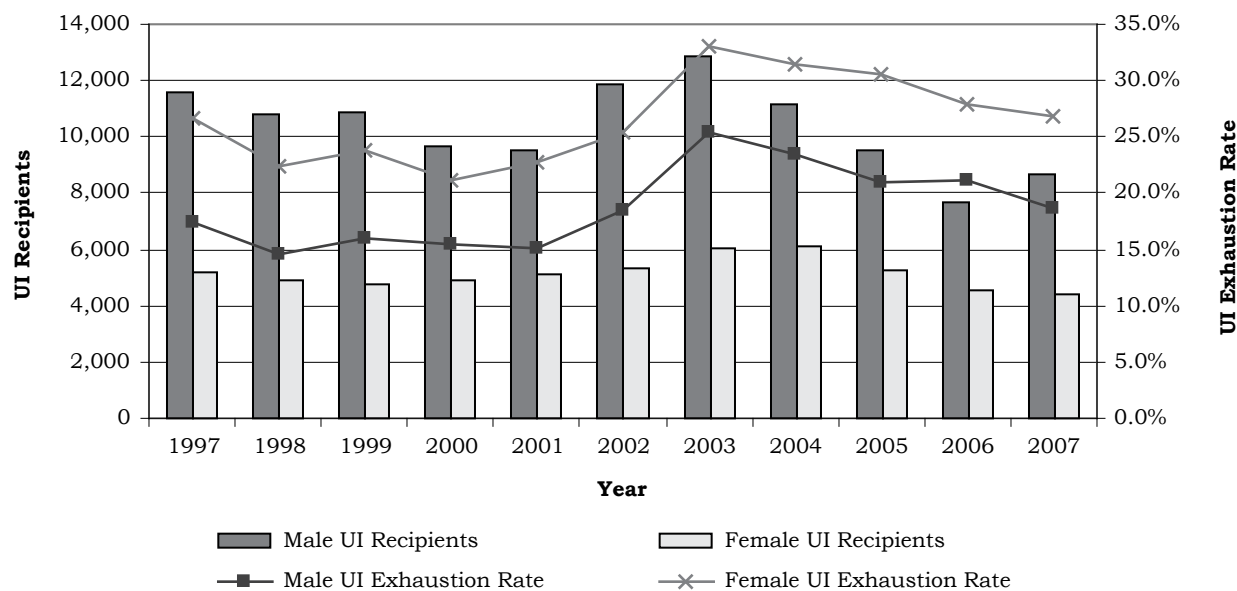
Age trends in UI recipients seem to match overall population trends in the state. Wyoming population projections through 2030 indicate that the number of those age 65 and older is projected to increase dramatically, while the number of those age 18-24 is projected to decrease (see Figure 4, page 6).

### Gender Differences

Historically more men have collected UI benefits than women, but women have had a much higher exhaustion rate than men (see Figure 5, page 6). Figure 6 (see page 7) shows that in 2007 the gender difference in UI exhaustion rates held across all age groups. The largest gender gap was in the age 25-34 group. While 25.8% of female UI recipients exhausted their benefits, only 14.2% of male recipients did so. As for all individuals, older men and women exhausted benefits more frequently than younger men and women. The result for all individuals 65 and older also held for men and women separately in this age group. Nearly half (49.1%) of female UI recipients in this traditional retirement-age group exhausted their benefits in 2007. In comparison, 32.4% of women age 55-64 exhausted their benefits. For men in the same age groups, the percentages were 39.6% and 24.1%, respectively. Possibly due to family commitments, females are more likely to take seasonal or part-time jobs

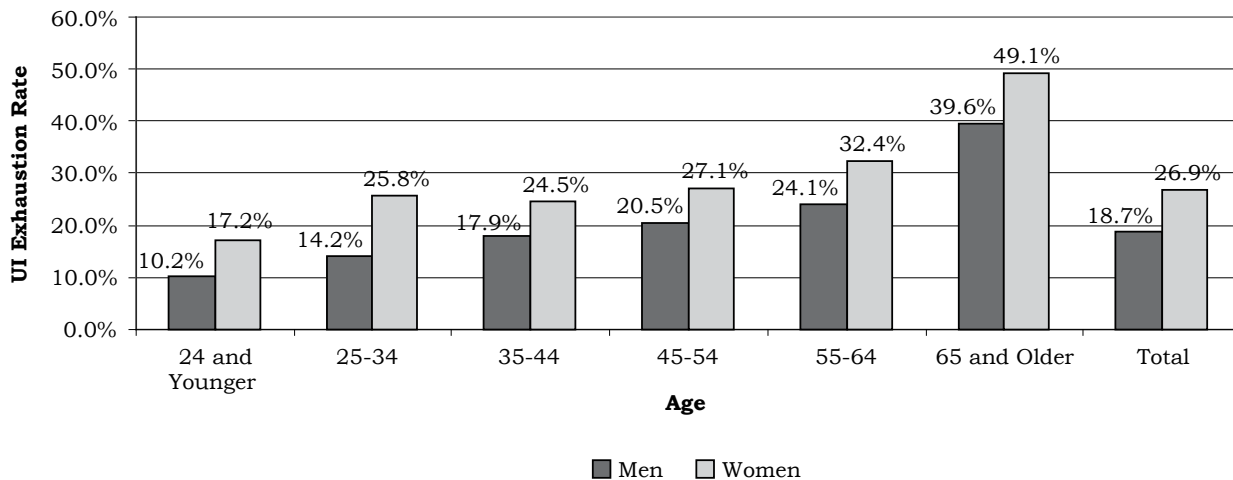
**Figure 4: Projected Population by Age in Wyoming, 2000-2030**

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

**Figure 5: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients and Exhaustion Rates by Gender, 1997-2007**

with lower wages, which would lead to fewer weeks of UI benefits after losing a job. The shorter duration of UI benefits and the difficulty of finding jobs could be the main reasons for a higher UI benefit exhaustion rate for women. Based on Current

Population Survey data, 27.4% of Wyoming female workers held a part-time job in 2007, compared with only 12.0% of male workers (see Table, page 7). Consequently, nearly two-thirds (64.7%) of Wyoming part-time jobs were held by women in 2007 and

**Figure 6: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Exhaustion Rates by Age and Gender, 2007****Table: Usual Full-Time and Part-Time Status of Wyoming Workers by Gender, 2007**

| Work Schedule                            | n              | Men           |                | n              | Women         |                | Total          |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                          |                | % of Gender   | % of Part-Time |                | % of Gender   | % of Full-Time |                |
| Part-time (fewer than 35 hours per week) | 18,794         | 12.0%         | 35.3%          | 34,422         | 27.4%         | 64.7%          | 53,216         |
| Full-time (35 or more hours per week)    | 137,677        | 88.0%         | 60.1%          | 91,231         | 72.6%         | 39.9%          | 228,909        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>156,471</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>55.5%</b>   | <b>125,653</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>44.5%</b>   | <b>282,125</b> |

Source: Current Population Survey.

Prepared February 13, 2008, by D. Bullard, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.

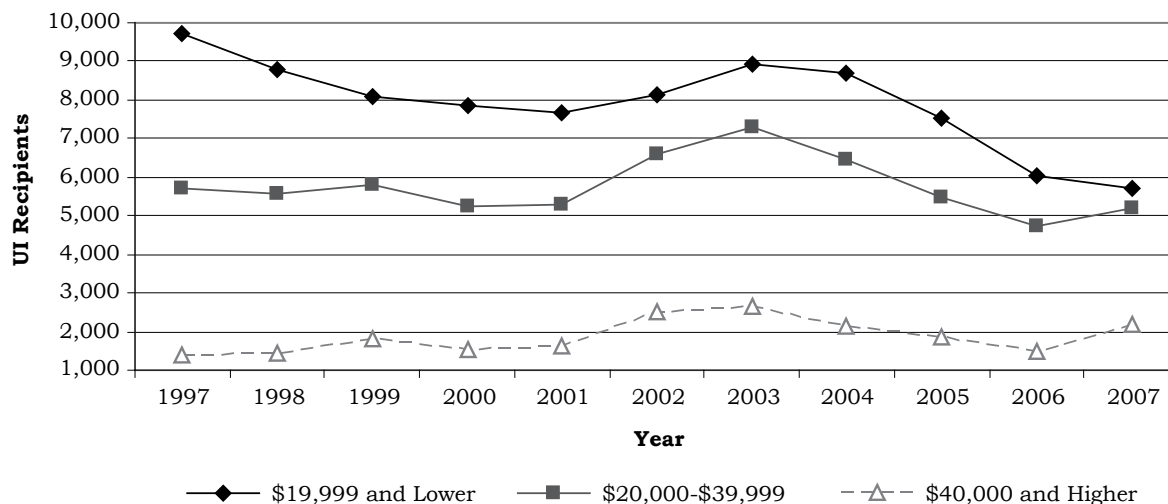
slightly more than one-third (35.3%) were held by men.

## Wage Differences

To simplify the analysis, we defined three wage groups: low-wage with annual pay \$19,999 and lower; middle-wage with annual pay \$20,000 to \$39,999; and high-wage with annual pay \$40,000 and higher. Since we examined the changes from 1997 to 2007, all previous years' wages were adjusted to the 2007 real wage based on the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

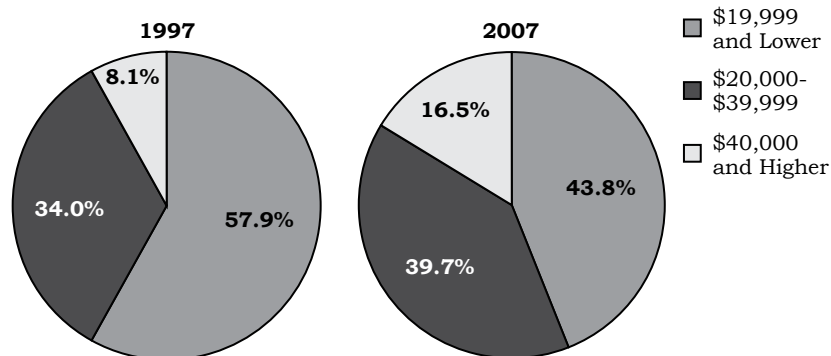
For the most part, the number of low-wage UI recipients dropped significantly, from 9,705 in 1997 to 5,725 in 2007, a decline of nearly half (-41.0%; see Figure 7, page 8). On the other hand, UI recipients in the high-wage group increased substantially over the same period, from 1,356 in 1997 to 2,158 in 2007 (59.1%). The number in the middle-wage group remained relatively flat, with an 8.9% decrease from 5,689 in 1997 to 5,181 in 2007.

In 1997 more than half (57.9%) of UI recipients were in the low-wage group while only 8.1% were in the high-wage group and 34.0% were in the middle-wage group

**Figure 7: Wyoming Annual Unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients by Wage Level, 1997-2007**

(see Figure 8). By 2007, the distribution shifted with less than half (43.8%) of all UI recipients in the low-wage group, 16.5% in the high-wage group, while the middle-wage group rose to 39.7%. In other words, in 2007 more than half of UI recipients were from middle- and high-wage groups.

Historically, low-wage UI recipients have had much higher benefit exhaustion rates than the middle- or high-wage groups (see Figure 9, page 9). Using 2007 as an example, approximately 30% of low-wage UI recipients exhausted their benefits, but only 16.7% and 10.7% of those in middle- and high-wage groups, respectively, exhausted their benefits. It is also true for all wage levels that the exhaustion rates after 2003

**Figure 8: Distribution of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Benefit Recipients by Wage Level, 1997 and 2007**

were generally higher than in prior years.

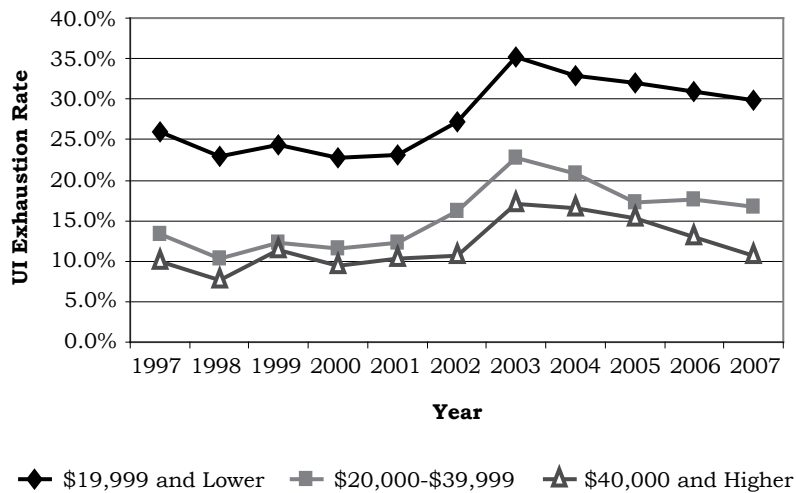
### Industry

Nearly one-third (28.4%) of total UI recipients in 2007 were in construction, the largest group (see Figure 10, page 9), followed by accommodation & food services (11.7%), nonclassified (10.5%), and

mining (7.6%). The majority of nonclassified workers were nonresidents or those who worked for federal agencies such as the National Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. Figure 11 (see page 10) shows historical UI exhaustion rates by industries that contributed at least 5.3% or more of all UI recipients in 2007.

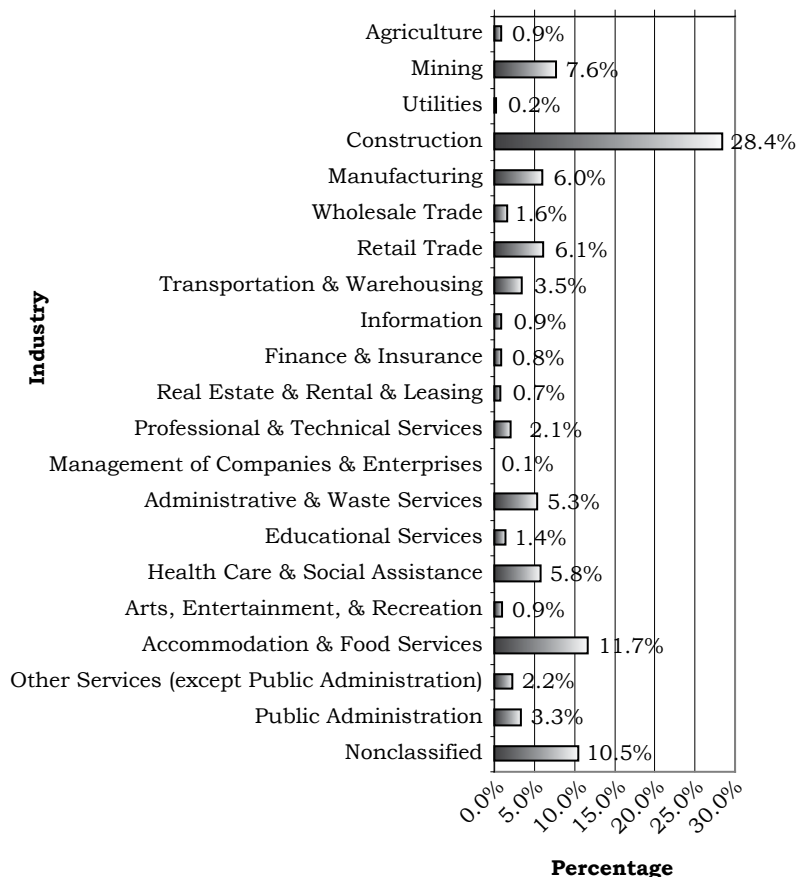


**Figure 9: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Exhaustion Rates by Wage Level, 1997-2007**



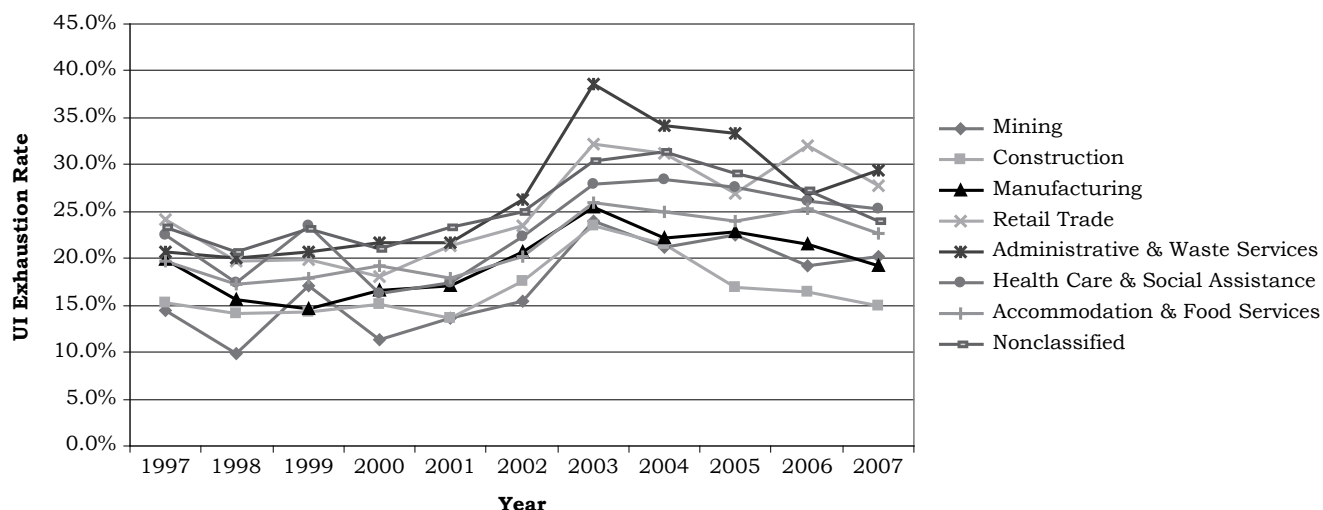
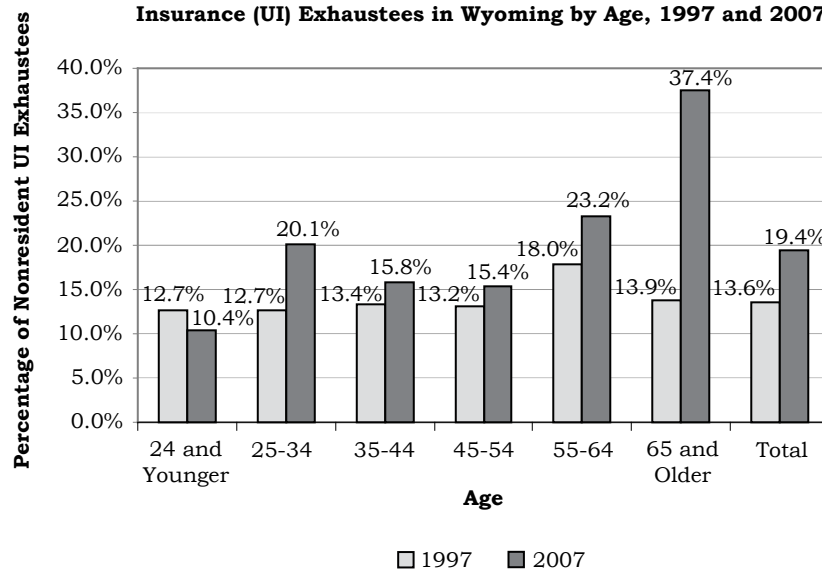
Construction and mining alternately appeared to have the lowest UI exhaustion rates over the 11 years. Manufacturing followed with the third lowest rate. On the other hand, administrative & waste services, retail trade, and nonclassified had the highest exhaustion rates. For example, in 2007, 15.0% of UI recipients in construction exhausted their benefits while 29.4% in administrative & waste services did so.

**Figure 10: Distribution of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Recipients by Major Industry, 2007**



## Resident Status

Prior studies found that the proportion of nonresident UI benefit recipients reached the highest levels in 2006 and 2007, at 13.4% and 13.3% respectively (Wen, 2008). In addition, nearly all of the growth in Wyoming's working population from 2004 to 2006 was due to nonresident labor (Jones, 2007). Coinciding with the growth in nonresident workers, the percentages of nonresident UI benefit exhaustees also increased in all age groups except for those age 24 and younger (see Figure 12, page 10). The largest growth occurred among those 65 and older. The percentage of nonresident exhaustees in this age group rose from

**Figure 11: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Exhaustion Rates by Major Industry, 1997-2007****Figure 12: Percentages of Nonresident Unemployment Insurance (UI) Exhaustees in Wyoming by Age, 1997 and 2007**

13.9% in 1997 to 37.4% in 2007.

Figure 13 (see page 11) shows that all of the growth in nonresident UI recipients from 1997 to 2007 was among those 45 and older. Once again, the number of recipients 65 and older

increased the most, from 43 to 145. Unlike the three older age groups, the number of nonresident recipients 44 and younger decreased between 1997 and 2007. Not only did more retirement-age nonresidents receive UI benefits in Wyoming in recent years, but more than

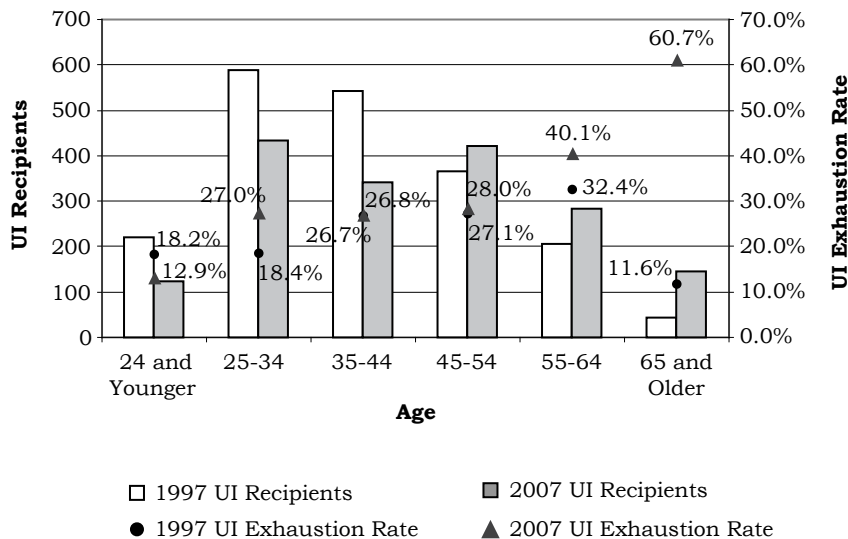
half (60.7%) also exhausted benefits in 2007, with the highest exhaustion rate among all age groups.

In addition, Wyoming initial claims and continued claims have seen an increase in out-of-state claimants from 2007 to 2008 (see pages 26 and 27).

## Conclusion

As the state's economy changed from the 2003 slowdown to fast-paced growth, a decreasing number of unemployed workers collected UI benefits. However, recipients experienced much higher exhaustion rates compared with the years before 2003. More middle- and retirement-age workers, especially those 65 and older, collected UI benefits,

**Figure 13: Comparison of Nonresident Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients and Exhaustion Rates in Wyoming, 1997 and 2007**



while younger workers showed a large drop in collecting UI benefits. In addition, older UI recipients were more likely to exhaust their benefits than younger recipients. Regardless of age, women showed a much higher benefit exhaustion rate than men. These results indicate that the recent mineral-based state economic expansion has not benefitted older or female workers as much as it has younger or male workers.

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## Updated Tables with Average Earnings by Age, Gender, and Industry

by: Sylvia D. Jones, Senior Research Analyst

Research & Planning (R&P) recently updated a series of tables on its Wyoming Labor Market Information website. These updated tables show revised annual earnings by age and gender for 2006 and preliminary data for 2007. Earnings figures and industry classifications are based on Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records and represent a count of individuals who worked in the state at any time during the year. Each person is represented one time, regardless of the number of jobs he or she worked. Average wages are the average annual wages of those individuals who worked in a UI-covered job during the reference year. They reflect pretax earnings and in many cases are identical to wages as reported on the IRS 1040 forms.

The update of tables showing annual earnings by age and gender in Wyoming reveals several trends:

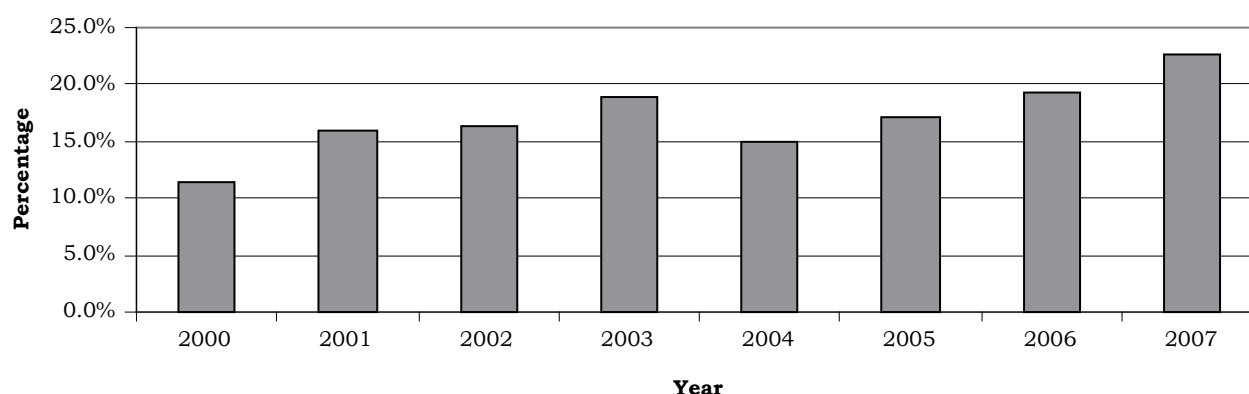
- The number of workers for whom demographics are unknown continues to rise. A lack of demographic information often indicates

nonresident status, illustrating the fact that Wyoming employers continue to rely on large numbers of workers from other states.

- The workforce continues to age rather markedly, as demonstrated by further growth in the oldest age groups.
- The difference in earnings between men and women decreased, in 2007, for the first time in four years.

One of the important pieces of information in the tables is the continued increase in the number of workers for whom we have no demographic information in any of our administrative databases (Driver's License, UI claims, etc.). As shown in Figure 1, the percentage of people for whom demographics are unknown increased dramatically from 2000 to 2007. In 2000 only 11.3% of the total workforce lacked known demographics. By 2007 this number increased to 22.7%. The increases were highest in construction (45.1%) and leisure & hospitality (38.4%). The absence of demographics is most often associated with nonresident status (Jones, 2006).

Figure 1: Percentage of People in Wyoming for Whom Demographics Are Unknown, 2000-2007

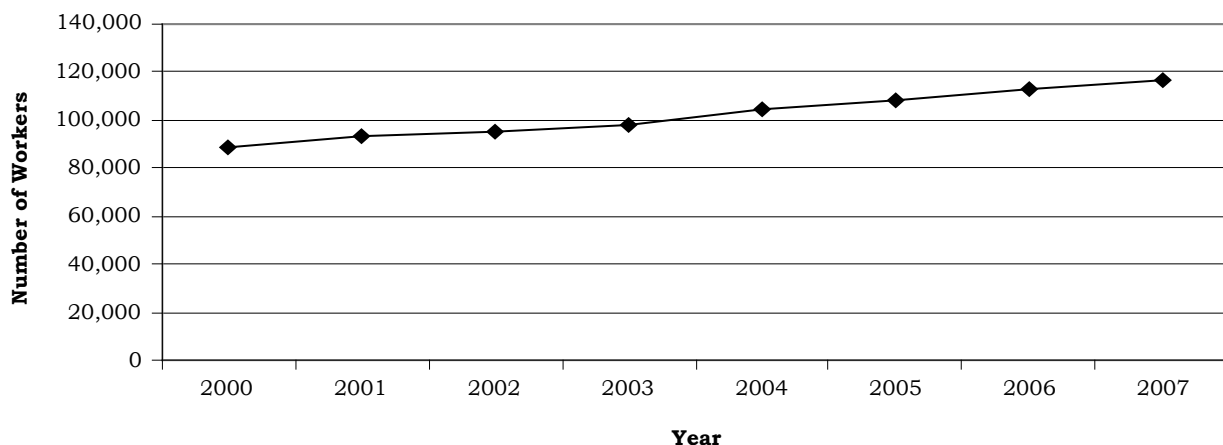


*Data for all of the industries and years discussed in this article can be accessed on our website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/wfdemog/toc3.htm>.*

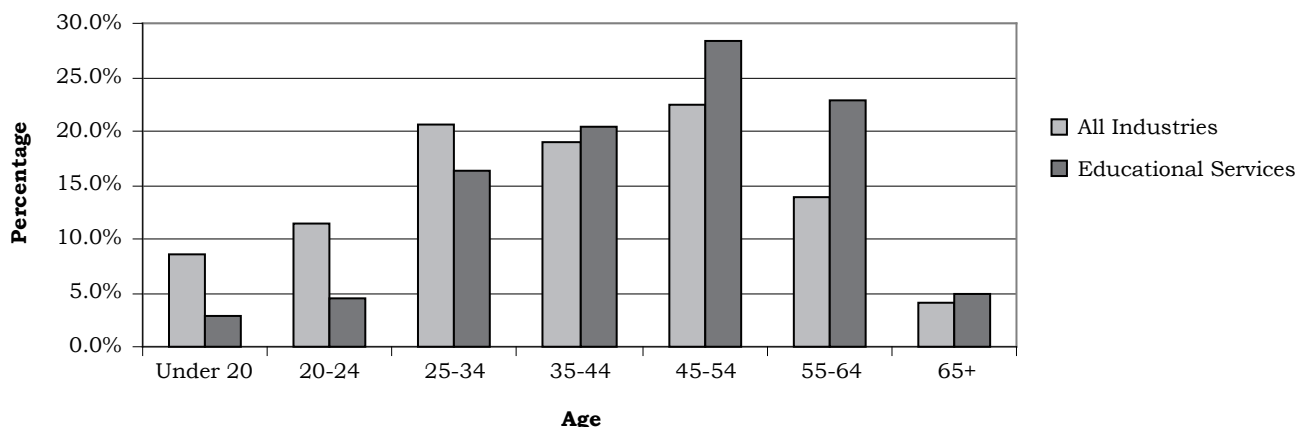
Another important note is the increase in the number of workers age 45 and older (see Figure 2). In 2000, 88,671 workers (28.8% of the workforce) were in this age range. The number rose to 116,306 (31.3%) in 2007. The aging phenomenon is most apparent in educational services. Figure 3 shows the distribution of Wyoming workers in the state as a whole and in educational services in 2007.

Statewide, 40.5% of workers with known demographics were age 45 and older. In educational services, however, 56.0% of workers were age 45 and older. It is likely our high school and college systems will see increasing pressure to educate more qualified teachers during the next 10 to 15 years as large numbers – and a significant proportion – of educators reach traditional retirement age.

**Figure 2: Number of Wyoming Workers Age 45 and Older, 2000-2007**



**Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Wyoming Workers in Educational Services and All Industries by Age, 2007**





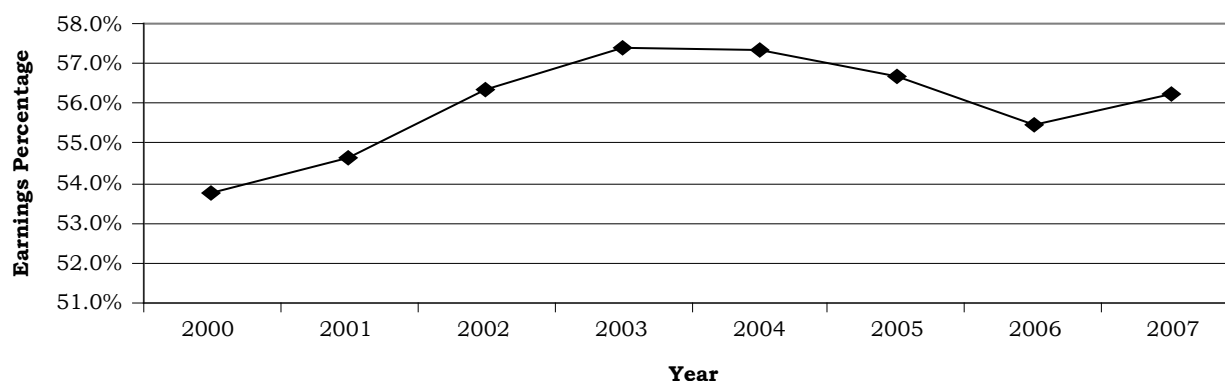
For the first time in several years, the gap between earnings for men and women narrowed (see Figure 4). In 2006, women earned, on average, 55.4% of what men earned. The percentage rose to 56.4% in 2007. During both years the percentage was substantially higher than in 2000, when women earned just 53.8% of men's earnings. The Table shows the percentages of women's earnings relative to men's for each industry. Health care & social assistance had the largest wage gap with women making 44.0% of male earnings.

Public administration and educational services had the smallest gaps (75.8% and 75.7%, respectively).

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**Figure 4: Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings in Wyoming, 2000-2007**



**Table: Wages for Men and Women in Wyoming by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Title, 2007**

| NAICS Title                                  | Women's Annual Wages | Men's Annual Wages | Women's Wages as a Percentage of Men's |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>\$22,824</b>      | <b>\$40,473</b>    | <b>56.4%</b>                           |
| Natural Resources & Mining                   | 36,648               | 60,779             | 60.3%                                  |
| Construction                                 | 23,635               | 33,166             | 71.3%                                  |
| Manufacturing                                | 23,173               | 44,839             | 51.7%                                  |
| Wholesale Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 27,695               | 48,112             | 57.6%                                  |
| Retail Trade                                 | 15,002               | 24,996             | 60.0%                                  |
| Information                                  | 23,561               | 38,459             | 61.3%                                  |
| Financial Activities                         | 27,585               | 55,083             | 50.1%                                  |
| Professional & Business Services             | 21,801               | 38,919             | 56.0%                                  |
| Educational Services                         | 29,982               | 39,582             | 75.7%                                  |
| Health Care & Social Assistance              | 27,040               | 61,494             | 44.0%                                  |
| Leisure & Hospitality                        | 10,114               | 14,056             | 72.0%                                  |
| Other Services, Except Public Administration | 17,217               | 32,186             | 53.5%                                  |
| Public Administration                        | 30,401               | 40,096             | 75.8%                                  |

# The NEW Report: Nurse Employment in Wyoming Hospitals, First Quarter 2006 (2006Q1) Through First Quarter 2008 (2008Q1)

tables and text by: *Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist*

figures and dashboard indicators by: *April Szuch, Information Specialist*

The following text, tables, and graphics were recently produced by Research & Planning. Complete data for nurses employed in hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing & residential care can be found at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/dashboard/toc.htm>.

## Findings

### Registered Nurses (RNs)

- RNs made up 26.1% of hospital employment in 2008Q1 (see Table and Figure 1, page 16).

**Table: Registered Nurses (RNs) Employed in Hospitals, First Quarter 2006 (2006Q1) through First Quarter 2008 (2008Q1)**

|                                    |       | 2006Q1     | 2006Q2   | 2006Q3   | 2006Q4   | 2007Q1   | 2007Q2   | 2007Q3   | 2007Q4   | 2008Q1 |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Active RNs                         |       | 2,287      | 2,321    | 2,417    | 2,384    | 2,396    | 2,437    | 2,522    | 2,482    | 2,473  |
| Percentage Change Previous Quarter |       | 0.4%       | 1.5%     | 4.1%     | -1.4%    | 0.5%     | 1.7%     | 3.5%     | -1.6%    | -0.4%  |
| Percentage Change Previous Year    |       | 3.1%       | 2.4%     | 2.3%     | 4.6%     | 4.8%     | 5.0%     | 4.3%     | 4.1%     | 3.2%   |
| RN Percentage of Total Employment  |       | 25.6%      | 25.9%    | 26.4%    | 26.5%    | 26.2%    | 25.9%    | 26.3%    | 26.4%    | 26.1%  |
| Multiple Jobholders                |       | 250        | 244      | 280      | 268      | 264      | 276      | 274      | 255      | 284    |
| Percentage Change Previous Quarter |       | -2.0%      | -2.4%    | 14.8%    | -4.3%    | -1.5%    | 4.5%     | -0.7%    | -6.9%    | 11.4%  |
| Percentage Change Previous Year    |       | 2.0%       | -9.6%    | 4.1%     | 5.1%     | 5.6%     | 13.1%    | -2.1%    | -4.9%    | 7.6%   |
| Workers' Compensation Claims       |       | 56         | 38       | 60       | 58       | 62       | 47       | 38       | 52       | 56     |
| Claims Rate                        |       | 2.4%       | 1.6%     | 2.5%     | 2.4%     | 2.6%     | 1.9%     | 1.5%     | 2.1%     | 2.3%   |
| Average Wages Continuous Employees |       | \$14,317   | \$14,203 | \$14,744 | \$14,602 | \$14,965 | \$14,618 | \$14,930 | \$15,049 | NA     |
| Average Age, All RNs               |       | 43.9       | 43.8     | 43.5     | 43.7     | 43.9     | 44.0     | 43.6     | 43.8     | 44.0   |
| Average Tenure, All RNs (Years)    |       | 5.9        | 5.9      | 5.7      | 5.9      | 5.9      | 6.0      | 5.9      | 6.0      | 6.1    |
| Exit Rate Percentage               |       | 5.5%       | 5.4%     | 6.2%     | 4.0%     | 4.1%     | 5.3%     | 6.2%     | 4.8%     | NA     |
| Age                                | <25   | Number     | 67       | 65       | 89       | 80       | 68       | 67       | 88       | 80     |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 2.9%     | 2.8%     | 3.7%     | 3.4%     | 2.8%     | 2.7%     | 3.5%     | 3.2%   |
|                                    | 25-34 | Number     | 457      | 471      | 506      | 487      | 492      | 502      | 535      | 528    |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 20.0%    | 20.3%    | 20.9%    | 20.4%    | 20.5%    | 20.6%    | 21.2%    | 21.3%  |
|                                    | 35-44 | Number     | 538      | 547      | 545      | 548      | 538      | 542      | 554      | 536    |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 23.5%    | 23.6%    | 22.5%    | 23.0%    | 22.5%    | 22.2%    | 22.0%    | 21.6%  |
|                                    | 45-54 | Number     | 759      | 743      | 757      | 740      | 748      | 752      | 755      | 737    |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 33.2%    | 32.0%    | 31.3%    | 31.0%    | 31.2%    | 30.9%    | 29.9%    | 29.7%  |
|                                    | 55-64 | Number     | 337      | 353      | 365      | 373      | 385      | 397      | 406      | 423    |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 14.7%    | 15.2%    | 15.1%    | 15.6%    | 16.1%    | 16.3%    | 16.1%    | 17.0%  |
|                                    | 65+   | Number     | 33       | 39       | 37       | 38       | 42       | 45       | 46       | 41     |
|                                    |       | Percentage | 1.4%     | 1.7%     | 1.5%     | 1.6%     | 1.8%     | 1.8%     | 1.8%     | 1.7%   |

- 11.5% of RNs were multiple jobholders in 2008Q1.
- In 2008Q1 approximately 1 in 50 RNs filed a Workers' Compensation claim.
- Continuously employed RN gross wages grew at an average annual rate of 3.6% between 2006Q1 and 2007Q4.
- The average age of RNs in 2008Q1 was 44 years.

#### Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)

- LPNs constituted 3.4% of hospital employees in 2008Q1.
- 9.6% of LPNs held more than one job in 2008Q1.
- Continuously employed LPN gross wages grew at an average annual rate of 2.2% between 2006Q1 and 2007Q4.

#### Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)

- The number of CNAs working in hospitals grew 4.6% between 2007Q1 and 2008Q1.
- CNAs as a proportion of total hospital employment ranged between 13.5% and 13.9% from 2006Q1 to 2008Q1.
- The average age of CNAs declined between 2006Q1 and 2008Q1, largely due to an increase in the number

and proportion of CNAs in the 25-34 age group.

most wages to a worker in a quarter.

### Definitions

*Industry/Primary Industry* – the industry in which licensed professionals earned the most wages each quarter.

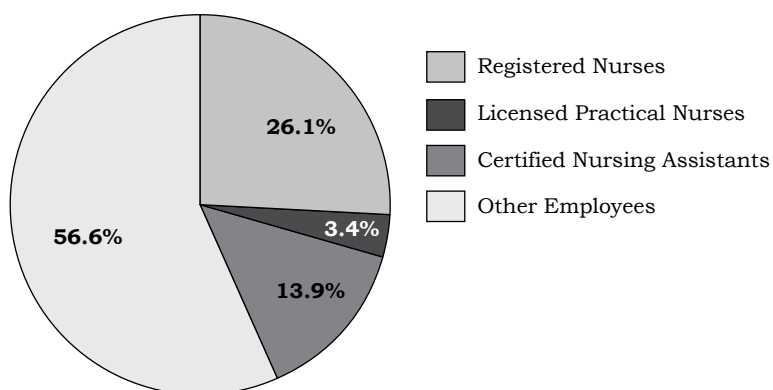
*Primary Employer* – the employer who paid the

*Active RNs, LPNs, or CNAs* – the count of licensed professionals who worked in hospitals.

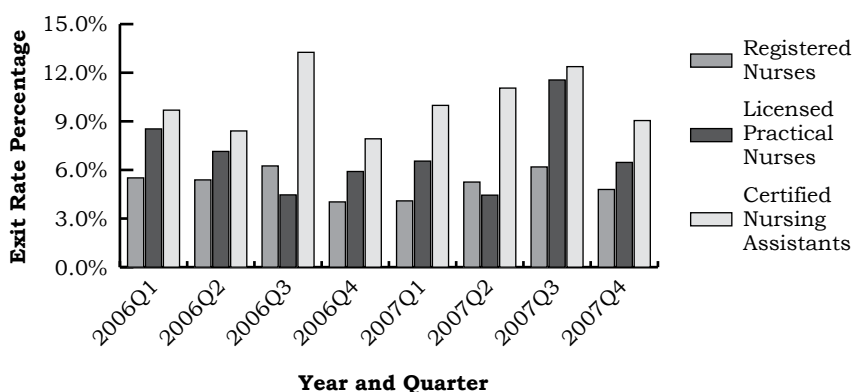
*Total Employment* – the count of all workers whose primary industry was hospitals.

*Multiple Jobholders* – the

**Figure 1: Percentage of Workers in Wyoming Hospitals by Board of Nursing License Type, First Quarter 2008**



**Figure 2: Exit Rate for Workers in Wyoming Hospitals by Board of Nursing License Type, First Quarter 2006 (2006Q1) through Fourth Quarter 2007 (2007Q4)**



number of licensed professionals paid wages by two or more employers during a quarter.

*Workers' Compensation Claims* – the number of workplace injuries reported to Workers' Compensation each quarter for RNs, LPNs, and CNAs.

*Continuous Employees* – the number of licensed professionals whose primary industry was hospitals for three consecutive quarters.

*Average Wages Continuous Employees* – gross quarterly average wages paid to each continuously employed licensed professional.

*Tenure* – the number of consecutive quarters each licensed professional worked for the same

primary employer, allowing for three quarter breaks.

*Exit Rate Percentage* – the number of licensed professionals whose primary industry was hospitals during the prior quarter and current quarter, but not in the following quarter.

*ND (Not Disclosable)* – if the number of Workers' Compensation claims was fewer than five in a quarter, the results were suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

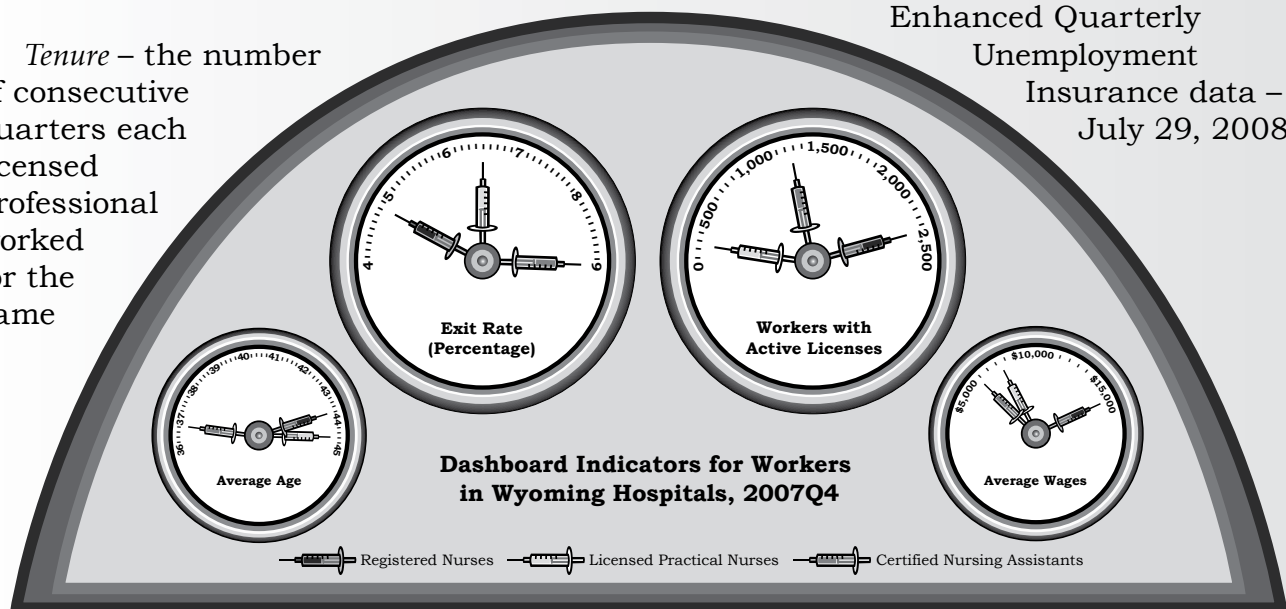
Data sources: Workers' Compensation Claims data – June 30, 2008; Board of Nursing license file – July 2, 2008; Wage Records database – July 9, 2008;

Enhanced Quarterly

Unemployment

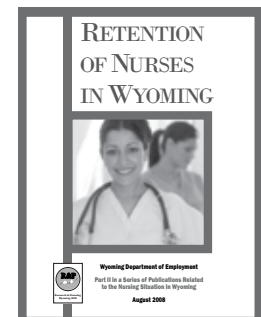
Insurance data –

July 29, 2008.



## Nursing Retention Report Now On the R&P Website

- *Retention of Nurses in Wyoming*, Research & Planning's latest report on the state's nursing situation, is available as a downloadable PDF at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nursing\\_retention\\_08.pdf](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/nursing_retention_08.pdf).



## Ask an Economist

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

**Q** Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.1% in March 2008 to 2.6% in April 2008, but the article on page 20 of June 2008 *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (Bullard) says this was not statistically significant. Why is a reduction of 0.5% statistically insignificant?

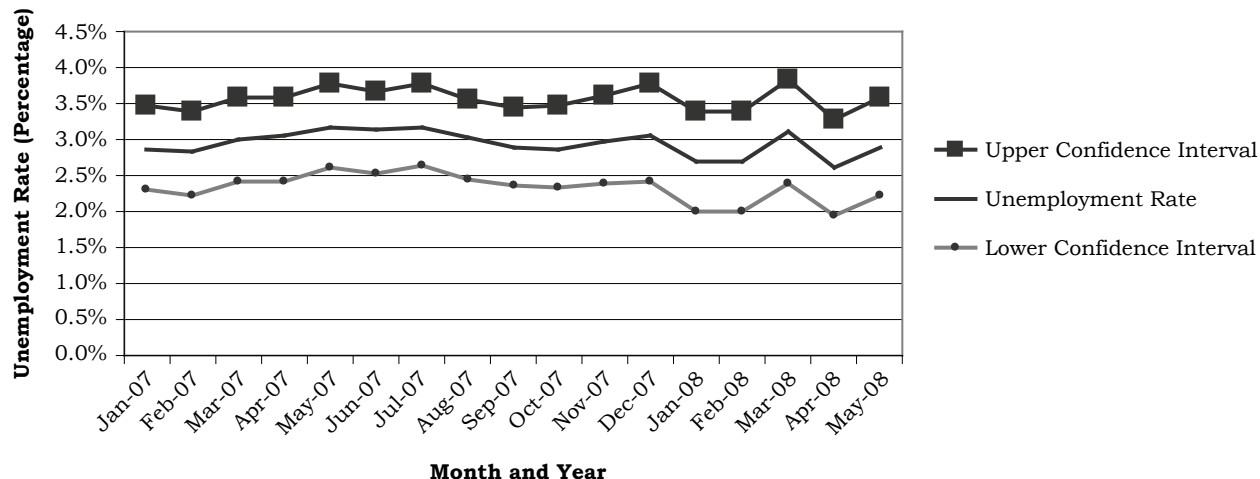
**A** At the state level, the monthly unemployment rate has a fairly large error range associated with it, mostly because it is based on a relatively small sample (approximately 955 households in Wyoming). State unemployment rates are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) model. LAUS combines data from the Current Population Survey (CPS, or household survey) with Wyoming Unemployment Insurance claims data and Current Employment Statistics program data. The March estimate of 3.1% has a 90% confidence interval of 2.4% to 3.8%. April's estimate of 2.6% falls within that range, which means it is not a statistically

significant change. The Figure shows the unemployment rate and the 90% confidence interval around it from January 2007 to May 2008.

Much of the data that Research & Planning publish come from sample-based surveys. A random sample (955 households, for example) is drawn from the universe (all households in the state). Based on the data provided by the sample, we make an estimate of some characteristic of the universe (for example, the unemployment rate). Because it is based on a sample, the estimate will often differ from the true percentage that would be obtained by collecting data from *all* households in the state. The confidence interval is a way of showing how accurate the estimate is. When we publish a 90% confidence interval, it means that in 9 out of 10 cases the confidence interval would contain the true unemployment rate.

In order to make more precise estimates of unemployment, the sample size of the

**Figure: Wyoming's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate and 90% Confidence Intervals, January 2007-May 2008**





CPS would have to be increased. Increasing the sample size would cost money and would also create more respondent burden as more households would be contacted by the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in this monthly survey.



### What is the establishment survey?



The establishment survey (also known as Current Employment Statistics, or CES) is a monthly survey of employers. We call it the establishment survey to distinguish it from the household survey (the Current Population Survey, or CPS) from which the unemployment rate is derived. Each month a sample of firms reports the number of employees on their payrolls and those employees' hours and earnings. The reference period is the payroll period including the 12th day of the month. We use the firms' reports to make estimates of employment by place of work for each sector (mining, construction, manufacturing, etc.). These employment estimates are found in each issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* under the heading "Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment" (see page 22).

We also produce estimates of hours and earnings for production workers in the manufacturing sector (see "Economic

Indicators" on page 24). We are currently developing average hours and earnings series for all employees for a number of sectors (natural resources & mining; construction; trade, transportation, warehousing, & utilities; professional & business services; educational & health services; leisure & hospitality; and other services). These all-employee hours and earnings data series are considered experimental and are currently published on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://stats.bls.gov/sae/experimental/sae56.htm>.

The data that employers report each month are used to make estimates for certain metropolitan areas, each state, and the U.S. as a whole. For example, when an employer in Cheyenne reports employment, payroll, and hours, those data are used in estimates for Laramie County, Wyoming, and the U.S.

To submit a question to "Ask an Economist," please e-mail April Szuch at [aszuch@state.wy.us](mailto:aszuch@state.wy.us).

### References

Bullard, D. (2008, June). Wyoming unemployment falls to 2.6% in April 2008. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 45(6). Retrieved August 6, 2008, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0608/a5.htm>

### Also New On the R&P Website

- The growing and declining industry tables for first quarter 2008 are now available at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/G\\_DInd/G\\_D\\_Industries.htm](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/G_DInd/G_D_Industries.htm).
- "Occupational Information for Environmental Health & Safety Programs: Industry Demand, Wages, and Skills – A Report to Central Wyoming College" is now available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education.htm>.

## Coming Soon: 2008 Employer Seminars

**R**unning a business can be a daunting task. Fortunately, there is help for employers. The Wyoming Department of Employment is sponsoring the 2008 Employer Seminars, coming to a town near you. The seminars provide information about workers' compensation, the state mine inspector's office, unemployment insurance, workplace safety, labor standards, and labor market information. Upcoming seminars are scheduled for Gillette (October 29), Cheyenne (December 3), and Cody (April 22, 2009). Register online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/employerseminars>.

## Wyoming Unemployment Inches Up to 3.6% in July 2008

*by: David Bullard, Senior Economist*

**W**yoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.2% in June to 3.6% in July. Unemployment has been slowly increasing from its recent low of 2.6% in April. July's unemployment rate is the highest for Wyoming since November 2005. Despite the recent increases, Wyoming unemployment remains much lower than the U.S. average (5.7% in July) and job growth in the state continues at a healthy pace.

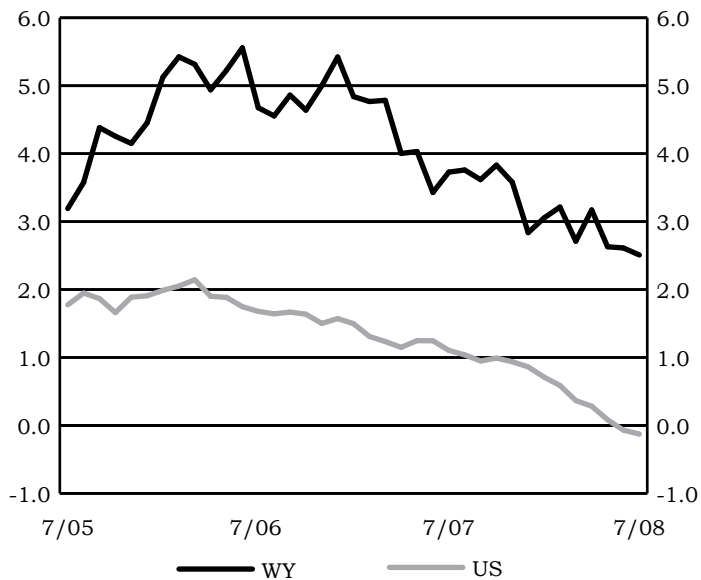
From June to July Wyoming employment fell by 4,100 jobs (1.3%). This level of decrease is consistent with normal seasonal patterns. Employment usually decreases in July as public schools are closed for the summer. Large seasonal increases in construction (500 jobs, or 1.7%), retail trade (500 jobs, or 1.5%), and leisure & hospitality (1,700 jobs, or 4.4%) were more than offset by seasonal job losses in government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals; -6,800 jobs, or -9.6%).

Over the year Wyoming added 7,400

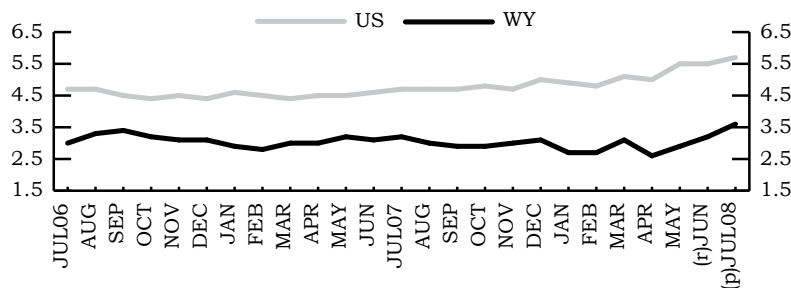
jobs (2.5%). The largest job gains were in construction (2,300 jobs, or 8.1%), natural resources & mining (including oil & gas; 1,500 jobs, or 5.4%), and government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals; 1,500 jobs, or 2.4%). Job growth was also seen in transportation, warehousing, & utilities (300 jobs, or 2.0%), financial activities (300 jobs, or 2.6%), educational & health services (500 jobs, or 2.1%), and leisure & hospitality (900 jobs, or 2.3%). Employment remained flat in Wyoming's information sector and decreased slightly in manufacturing (-300 jobs, or -3.0%) and other services (-200 jobs, or -1.7%).

Most county unemployment rates increased slightly from year-ago levels. The largest increases occurred in Niobrara County (up from 2.2% in July 2007 to 3.7% in July 2008), Johnson County (up from 2.9% to 4.1%), Crook County (up from 2.3% to 3.2%), and Goshen County (up from 3.5% to 4.4%). The highest unemployment rates were found in Big Horn (4.6%), Platte (4.5%), and Goshen (4.4%) counties.

**Nonagricultural Employment Growth  
(Percentage Change Over Previous Year)**



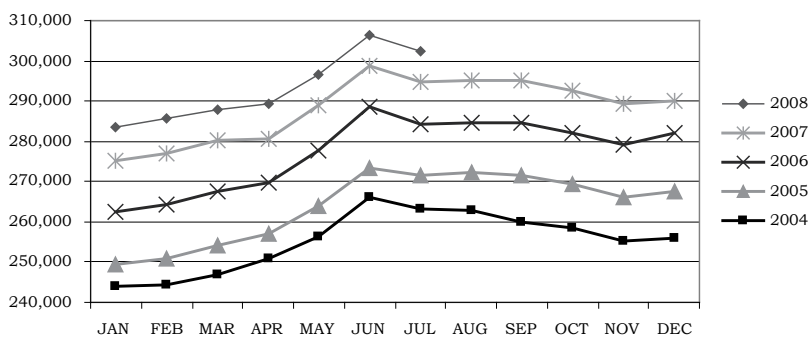
**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)**



(r) Revised.

(p) Preliminary.

**Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**



**State Unemployment Rates  
July 2008  
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

| State                | Unemp. Rate |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Puerto Rico          | 11.3        |
| Michigan             | 8.5         |
| Mississippi          | 7.9         |
| Rhode Island         | 7.7         |
| California           | 7.3         |
| Illinois             | 7.3         |
| Ohio                 | 7.2         |
| South Carolina       | 7.0         |
| Alaska               | 6.9         |
| Tennessee            | 6.9         |
| District of Columbia | 6.7         |
| Kentucky             | 6.7         |
| Nevada               | 6.6         |
| North Carolina       | 6.6         |
| Missouri             | 6.4         |
| Indiana              | 6.3         |
| Georgia              | 6.2         |
| Florida              | 6.1         |
| Oregon               | 6.0         |
| Connecticut          | 5.8         |
| Minnesota            | 5.8         |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>5.7</b>  |
| Washington           | 5.7         |
| Maine                | 5.4         |
| New Jersey           | 5.4         |
| Pennsylvania         | 5.4         |
| Colorado             | 5.2         |
| New York             | 5.2         |
| Alabama              | 5.1         |
| Arizona              | 5.1         |
| Massachusetts        | 5.1         |
| Wisconsin            | 4.9         |
| Vermont              | 4.8         |
| Texas                | 4.7         |
| Kansas               | 4.6         |
| Arkansas             | 4.5         |
| West Virginia        | 4.5         |
| Delaware             | 4.4         |
| Maryland             | 4.4         |
| Virginia             | 4.4         |
| Iowa                 | 4.3         |
| Idaho                | 4.1         |
| New Mexico           | 4.1         |
| Oklahoma             | 4.1         |
| Montana              | 4.0         |
| Hawaii               | 3.9         |
| Louisiana            | 3.9         |
| New Hampshire        | 3.9         |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       | <b>3.6</b>  |
| North Dakota         | 3.5         |
| Utah                 | 3.5         |
| Nebraska             | 3.4         |
| South Dakota         | 3.0         |

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

*Compared to a year earlier, employment remained flat in Wyoming's information sector and decreased slightly in manufacturing (-300 jobs, or -3.0%) and other services (-200 jobs, or -1.7%).*

| WYOMING STATEWIDE                                | Employment in<br>Thousands |              | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |             |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
|                                                  | Jul08(p)                   | Jun08(r)     | Jul07                                 | Jul08       | Jul07      |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>302.3</b>               | <b>306.4</b> | <b>294.9</b>                          | <b>-1.3</b> | <b>2.5</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>238.5</b>               | <b>235.8</b> | <b>232.6</b>                          | <b>1.1</b>  | <b>2.5</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>69.6</b>                | <b>68.7</b>  | <b>66.1</b>                           | <b>1.3</b>  | <b>5.3</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 29.1                       | 28.7         | 27.6                                  | 1.4         | 5.4        |
| Mining                                           | 29.0                       | 28.6         | 27.5                                  | 1.4         | 5.5        |
| Oil & Gas Extraction                             | 4.8                        | 4.7          | 4.3                                   | 2.1         | 11.6       |
| Mining Except Oil & Gas                          | 9.8                        | 9.7          | 9.5                                   | 1.0         | 3.2        |
| Coal Mining                                      | 6.9                        | 6.8          | 6.5                                   | 1.5         | 6.2        |
| Support Activities for Mining                    | 14.4                       | 14.2         | 13.7                                  | 1.4         | 5.1        |
| Support Act. for Oil & Gas                       | 10.6                       | 10.6         | 10.3                                  | 0.0         | 2.9        |
| Construction                                     | 30.7                       | 30.2         | 28.4                                  | 1.7         | 8.1        |
| Construction of Buildings                        | 5.6                        | 5.3          | 5.2                                   | 5.7         | 7.7        |
| Heavy & Engineering Constr.                      | 10.8                       | 10.6         | 9.6                                   | 1.9         | 12.5       |
| Specialty Trade Contractors                      | 14.3                       | 14.3         | 13.6                                  | 0.0         | 5.1        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 9.8                        | 9.8          | 10.1                                  | 0.0         | -3.0       |
| Durable Goods                                    | 5.2                        | 5.2          | 5.5                                   | 0.0         | -5.5       |
| Non-Durable Goods                                | 4.6                        | 4.6          | 4.6                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>232.7</b>               | <b>237.7</b> | <b>228.8</b>                          | <b>-2.1</b> | <b>1.7</b> |
| Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.                | 57.4                       | 57.0         | 56.7                                  | 0.7         | 1.2        |
| Wholesale Trade                                  | 9.0                        | 9.1          | 8.8                                   | -1.1        | 2.3        |
| Merchant Whslrs., Durable                        | 5.8                        | 5.7          | 5.5                                   | 1.8         | 5.5        |
| Retail Trade                                     | 33.4                       | 32.9         | 33.2                                  | 1.5         | 0.6        |
| Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers                    | 4.8                        | 4.8          | 4.7                                   | 0.0         | 2.1        |
| Food & Beverage Stores                           | 4.8                        | 4.7          | 4.8                                   | 2.1         | 0.0        |
| Grocery Stores                                   | 4.1                        | 4.0          | 4.0                                   | 2.5         | 2.5        |
| Gasoline Stations                                | 4.5                        | 4.4          | 4.4                                   | 2.3         | 2.3        |
| General Merchandise Stores                       | 6.8                        | 6.6          | 6.9                                   | 3.0         | -1.4       |
| Miscellaneous Store Retailers                    | 2.1                        | 2.0          | 2.1                                   | 5.0         | 0.0        |
| Transport., Warehouse, & Util.                   | 15.0                       | 15.0         | 14.7                                  | 0.0         | 2.0        |
| Utilities                                        | 2.6                        | 2.6          | 2.5                                   | 0.0         | 4.0        |
| Transportation & Warehousing                     | 12.4                       | 12.4         | 12.2                                  | 0.0         | 1.6        |
| Truck Transportation                             | 4.6                        | 4.5          | 4.4                                   | 2.2         | 4.5        |
| Information                                      | 4.1                        | 4.1          | 4.1                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 11.9                       | 11.9         | 11.6                                  | 0.0         | 2.6        |
| Finance & Insurance                              | 7.1                        | 7.1          | 7.0                                   | 0.0         | 1.4        |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing                   | 4.8                        | 4.8          | 4.6                                   | 0.0         | 4.3        |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 19.8                       | 19.9         | 19.6                                  | -0.5        | 1.0        |
| Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services               | 10.0                       | 10.1         | 9.7                                   | -1.0        | 3.1        |
| Architect., Engineering & Rel.                   | 3.1                        | 3.1          | 3.0                                   | 0.0         | 3.3        |
| Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.                    | 0.8                        | 0.8          | 0.9                                   | 0.0         | -11.1      |
| Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.                    | 9.0                        | 9.0          | 9.0                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 23.9                       | 23.9         | 23.4                                  | 0.0         | 2.1        |
| Educational Services                             | 2.4                        | 2.4          | 2.5                                   | 0.0         | -4.0       |
| Health Care & Social Assistance                  | 21.5                       | 21.5         | 20.9                                  | 0.0         | 2.9        |
| Ambulatory Health Care                           | 8.2                        | 8.1          | 7.9                                   | 1.2         | 3.8        |
| Offices of Physicians                            | 3.3                        | 3.2          | 3.2                                   | 3.1         | 3.1        |
| Hospitals                                        | 3.1                        | 3.1          | 3.0                                   | 0.0         | 3.3        |
| Nursing & Res. Care Facilities                   | 4.4                        | 4.4          | 4.5                                   | 0.0         | -2.2       |
| Social Assistance                                | 5.8                        | 5.9          | 5.5                                   | -1.7        | 5.5        |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 40.0                       | 38.3         | 39.1                                  | 4.4         | 2.3        |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.                      | 3.9                        | 3.5          | 3.9                                   | 11.4        | 0.0        |
| Accommodation & Food Services                    | 36.1                       | 34.8         | 35.2                                  | 3.7         | 2.6        |
| Accommodation                                    | 15.4                       | 14.6         | 14.9                                  | 5.5         | 3.4        |
| Food Serv. & Drinking Places                     | 20.7                       | 20.2         | 20.3                                  | 2.5         | 2.0        |
| Other Services                                   | 11.8                       | 12.0         | 12.0                                  | -1.7        | -1.7       |
| Repair & Maintenance                             | 4.1                        | 4.1          | 4.1                                   | 0.0         | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>63.8</b>                | <b>70.6</b>  | <b>62.3</b>                           | <b>-9.6</b> | <b>2.4</b> |
| Federal Government                               | 8.2                        | 8.1          | 8.1                                   | 1.2         | 1.2        |
| State Government                                 | 15.2                       | 15.7         | 15.0                                  | -3.2        | 1.3        |
| State Govt. Education                            | 5.7                        | 6.4          | 5.7                                   | -10.9       | 0.0        |
| Local Government                                 | 40.4                       | 46.8         | 39.2                                  | -13.7       | 3.1        |
| Local Govt. Education                            | 17.3                       | 23.0         | 16.2                                  | -24.8       | 6.8        |
| Hospitals                                        | 6.5                        | 6.5          | 6.3                                   | 0.0         | 3.2        |

| LARAMIE COUNTY                                   | Employment in<br>Thousands |             | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |             |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                  | Jul08(p)                   | Jun08(r)    | Jul07                                 | Jul08       | Jul07       |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>45.6</b>                | <b>46.1</b> | <b>44.6</b>                           | <b>-1.1</b> | <b>2.2</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>32.3</b>                | <b>32.2</b> | <b>31.6</b>                           | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>2.2</b>  |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>5.0</b>                 | <b>5.0</b>  | <b>5.1</b>                            | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>-2.0</b> |
| Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction                | 3.3                        | 3.3         | 3.5                                   | 0.0         | -5.7        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 1.7                        | 1.7         | 1.6                                   | 0.0         | 6.2         |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>40.6</b>                | <b>41.1</b> | <b>39.5</b>                           | <b>-1.2</b> | <b>2.8</b>  |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 10.1                       | 10.1        | 9.9                                   | 0.0         | 2.0         |
| Wholesale Trade                                  | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 0.8                                   | 0.0         | 12.5        |
| Retail Trade                                     | 5.9                        | 5.9         | 5.8                                   | 0.0         | 1.7         |
| Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities                    | 3.3                        | 3.3         | 3.3                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| Information                                      | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 1.0                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| Financial Activities                             | 2.1                        | 2.0         | 2.0                                   | 5.0         | 5.0         |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 3.6                        | 3.6         | 3.4                                   | 0.0         | 5.9         |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 3.9                        | 3.9         | 3.7                                   | 0.0         | 5.4         |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 4.9                        | 4.9         | 4.8                                   | 0.0         | 2.1         |
| Other Services                                   | 1.7                        | 1.7         | 1.7                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>13.3</b>                | <b>13.9</b> | <b>13.0</b>                           | <b>-4.3</b> | <b>2.3</b>  |
| Federal Government                               | 2.6                        | 2.7         | 2.6                                   | -3.7        | 0.0         |
| State Government                                 | 4.1                        | 4.1         | 4.0                                   | 0.0         | 2.5         |
| Local Government                                 | 6.6                        | 7.1         | 6.4                                   | -7.0        | 3.1         |
| Local Education                                  | 3.1                        | 3.5         | 3.0                                   | -11.4       | 3.3         |

| NATRONA COUNTY                                   | Employment in<br>Thousands |             | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |             |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                  | Jul08(p)                   | Jun08(r)    | Jul07                                 | Jul08       | Jul07       |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>45.6</b>                | <b>46.1</b> | <b>44.6</b>                           | <b>-1.1</b> | <b>2.2</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>32.3</b>                | <b>32.2</b> | <b>31.6</b>                           | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>2.2</b>  |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>5.0</b>                 | <b>5.0</b>  | <b>5.1</b>                            | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>-2.0</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 3.3                        | 3.3         | 3.5                                   | 0.0         | -5.7        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 1.7                        | 1.7         | 1.6                                   | 0.0         | 6.2         |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>40.6</b>                | <b>41.1</b> | <b>39.5</b>                           | <b>-1.2</b> | <b>2.8</b>  |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities               | 10.1                       | 10.1        | 9.9                                   | 0.0         | 2.0         |
| Wholesale Trade                                  | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 0.8                                   | 0.0         | 12.5        |
| Retail Trade                                     | 5.9                        | 5.9         | 5.8                                   | 0.0         | 1.7         |
| Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities                    | 3.3                        | 3.3         | 3.3                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| Information                                      | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 1.0                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| Financial Activities                             | 2.1                        | 2.0         | 2.0                                   | 5.0         | 5.0         |
| Professional & Business Services                 | 3.6                        | 3.6         | 3.4                                   | 0.0         | 5.9         |
| Educational & Health Services                    | 3.9                        | 3.9         | 3.7                                   | 0.0         | 5.4         |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 4.9                        | 4.9         | 4.8                                   | 0.0         | 2.1         |
| Other Services                                   | 1.7                        | 1.7         | 1.7                                   | 0.0         | 0.0         |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>13.3</b>                | <b>13.9</b> | <b>13.0</b>                           | <b>-4.3</b> | <b>2.3</b>  |
| Federal Government                               | 2.6                        | 2.7         | 2.6                                   | -3.7        | 0.0         |
| State Government                                 | 4.1                        | 4.1         | 4.0                                   | 0.0         | 2.5         |
| Local Government                                 | 6.6                        | 7.1         | 6.4                                   | -7.0        | 3.1         |
| Local Education                                  | 3.1                        | 3.5         | 3.0                                   | -11.4       | 3.3         |

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

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

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

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.



## Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

|                                                  | Employment in<br>Thousands |             |             | Percentage Change<br>Total Employment |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
|                                                  | Jul08                      | Jun08       | Jul07       | Jun08                                 | Jul07      |
|                                                  | Jul08                      | Jul08       | Jul08       | Jul08                                 | Jul08      |
| <b>CAMPBELL COUNTY</b>                           |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>29.1</b>                | <b>29.9</b> | <b>27.5</b> | <b>-2.7</b>                           | <b>5.8</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>25.9</b>                | <b>25.6</b> | <b>24.4</b> | <b>1.2</b>                            | <b>6.1</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>13.1</b>                | <b>12.9</b> | <b>12.3</b> | <b>1.6</b>                            | <b>6.5</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 8.3                        | 8.2         | 7.9         | 1.2                                   | 5.1        |
| Construction                                     | 4.1                        | 4.0         | 3.7         | 2.5                                   | 10.8       |
| Manufacturing                                    | 0.7                        | 0.7         | 0.7         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>16.0</b>                | <b>17.0</b> | <b>15.2</b> | <b>-5.9</b>                           | <b>5.3</b> |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities                   | 5.7                        | 5.7         | 5.4         | 0.0                                   | 5.6        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 0.8                        | 0.8         | 0.7         | 0.0                                   | 14.3       |
| Professional & Bus. Services                     | 2.0                        | 1.9         | 1.9         | 5.3                                   | 5.3        |
| Educational & Health Serv.                       | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 2.1                        | 2.1         | 2.0         | 0.0                                   | 5.0        |
| Other Services                                   | 1.1                        | 1.1         | 1.0         | 0.0                                   | 10.0       |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>3.2</b>                 | <b>4.3</b>  | <b>3.1</b>  | <b>-25.6</b>                          | <b>3.2</b> |
| <b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>                         |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>26.0</b>                | <b>26.6</b> | <b>25.0</b> | <b>-2.3</b>                           | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>22.3</b>                | <b>22.3</b> | <b>21.3</b> | <b>0.0</b>                            | <b>4.7</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>9.5</b>                 | <b>9.6</b>  | <b>8.9</b>  | <b>-1.0</b>                           | <b>6.7</b> |
| Natural Resources & Mining                       | 5.7                        | 5.7         | 5.6         | 0.0                                   | 1.8        |
| Construction                                     | 2.5                        | 2.6         | 2.0         | -3.8                                  | 25.0       |
| Manufacturing                                    | 1.3                        | 1.3         | 1.3         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>16.5</b>                | <b>17.0</b> | <b>16.1</b> | <b>-2.9</b>                           | <b>2.5</b> |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities                   | 5.4                        | 5.4         | 5.3         | 0.0                                   | 1.9        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | 11.1       |
| Professional & Bus. Services                     | 1.5                        | 1.4         | 1.4         | 7.1                                   | 7.1        |
| Educational & Health Serv.                       | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 0.9         | 0.0                                   | 11.1       |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 2.7                        | 2.7         | 2.6         | 0.0                                   | 3.8        |
| Other Services                                   | 1.0                        | 1.0         | 1.1         | 0.0                                   | -9.1       |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>3.7</b>                 | <b>4.3</b>  | <b>3.7</b>  | <b>-14.0</b>                          | <b>0.0</b> |
| <b>TETON COUNTY</b>                              |                            |             |             |                                       |            |
| <b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b> | <b>22.3</b>                | <b>21.2</b> | <b>21.7</b> | <b>5.2</b>                            | <b>2.8</b> |
| <b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>                             | <b>20.0</b>                | <b>18.8</b> | <b>19.6</b> | <b>6.4</b>                            | <b>2.0</b> |
| <b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>                           | <b>2.8</b>                 | <b>2.8</b>  | <b>2.8</b>  | <b>0.0</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> |
| Nat. Res., Mining & Constr.                      | 2.7                        | 2.7         | 2.7         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Manufacturing                                    | 0.1                        | 0.1         | 0.1         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>                         | <b>19.5</b>                | <b>18.4</b> | <b>18.9</b> | <b>6.0</b>                            | <b>3.2</b> |
| Trade, Transport., & Utilities                   | 3.0                        | 2.8         | 2.9         | 7.1                                   | 3.4        |
| Information                                      | 0.2                        | 0.2         | 0.2         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                             | 1.1                        | 1.1         | 1.0         | 0.0                                   | 10.0       |
| Professional & Bus. Services                     | 2.1                        | 2.0         | 2.1         | 5.0                                   | 0.0        |
| Educational & Health Serv.                       | 0.9                        | 0.9         | 1.0         | 0.0                                   | -10.0      |
| Leisure & Hospitality                            | 9.3                        | 8.4         | 9.0         | 10.7                                  | 3.3        |
| Other Services                                   | 0.6                        | 0.6         | 0.6         | 0.0                                   | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>                          | <b>2.3</b>                 | <b>2.4</b>  | <b>2.1</b>  | <b>-4.2</b>                           | <b>9.5</b> |

## State Unemployment Rates July 2008 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| State                | Unemp.<br>Rate |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Puerto Rico          | 12.3           |
| Michigan             | 9.1            |
| Mississippi          | 8.5            |
| Rhode Island         | 8.1            |
| California           | 7.6            |
| Illinois             | 7.4            |
| District of Columbia | 7.2            |
| Ohio                 | 7.2            |
| South Carolina       | 7.0            |
| Tennessee            | 7.0            |
| Kentucky             | 6.8            |
| North Carolina       | 6.8            |
| Nevada               | 6.7            |
| Georgia              | 6.5            |
| Missouri             | 6.5            |
| Florida              | 6.4            |
| Alaska               | 6.1            |
| Connecticut          | 6.1            |
| Indiana              | 6.1            |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>6.0</b>     |
| New Jersey           | 5.8            |
| Oregon               | 5.8            |
| Minnesota            | 5.6            |
| Alabama              | 5.5            |
| Arizona              | 5.4            |
| New York             | 5.4            |
| Pennsylvania         | 5.4            |
| Washington           | 5.4            |
| Colorado             | 5.2            |
| Massachusetts        | 5.2            |
| Maine                | 5.1            |
| Texas                | 5.0            |
| Arkansas             | 4.9            |
| Kansas               | 4.9            |
| Wisconsin            | 4.8            |
| Delaware             | 4.6            |
| Maryland             | 4.6            |
| New Mexico           | 4.6            |
| Vermont              | 4.5            |
| Louisiana            | 4.4            |
| Virginia             | 4.4            |
| Hawaii               | 4.2            |
| West Virginia        | 4.2            |
| Oklahoma             | 4.0            |
| Iowa                 | 3.9            |
| New Hampshire        | 3.7            |
| Idaho                | 3.6            |
| Nebraska             | 3.6            |
| Utah                 | 3.6            |
| Montana              | 3.5            |
| North Dakota         | 3.2            |
| <b>Wyoming</b>       | <b>3.0</b>     |
| South Dakota         | 2.8            |



## Economic Indicators

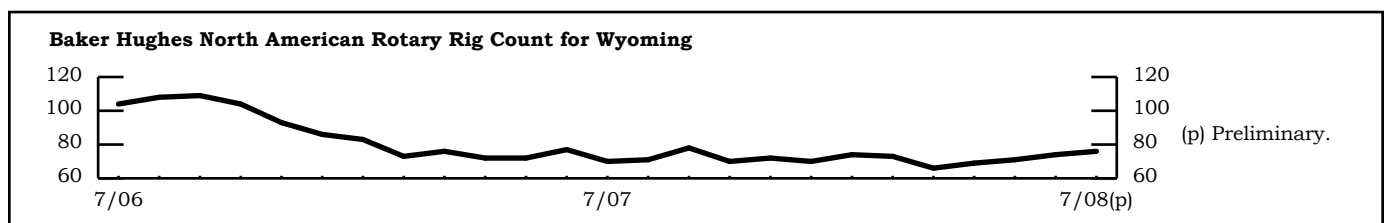
by: **Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist**

*The Consumer Price Index rose 5.6% from July 2007 to July 2008.*

|                                                        | July<br>2008<br>(p)                     | June<br>2008<br>(r) | July<br>2007<br>(b) | Percentage<br>Change<br>Month | Change<br>Year |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force <sup>a</sup>        | 296,664                                 | 295,641             | 293,292             | 0.3                           | 1.1            |
| Unemployed                                             | 8,958                                   | 8,820               | 7,839               | 1.6                           | 14.3           |
| Employed                                               | 287,706                                 | 286,821             | 285,453             | 0.3                           | 0.8            |
| Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted                | 3.0%/3.6%                               | 3.0%/3.2%           | 2.7%/3.2%           | N/A                           | N/A            |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted             | 6.0%/5.7%                               | 5.7%/5.5%           | 4.9%/4.7%           | N/A                           | N/A            |
| U.S. Multiple Jobholders                               | 7,743,000                               | 7,694,000           | 7,636,000           | 0.6                           | 1.4            |
| As a percentage of all workers                         | 5.3%                                    | 5.2%                | 5.2%                | N/A                           | N/A            |
| U.S. Discouraged Workers                               | 461,000                                 | 420,000             | 367,000             | 9.8                           | 25.6           |
| U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons                    | 6,054,000                               | 5,697,000           | 4,516,000           | 6.3                           | 34.1           |
| Hours & Earnings for Production Workers                |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Wyoming Mining                                         |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Average Weekly Earnings                                | Data not available; see box on page 22. |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Average Weekly Hours                                   |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings                           |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Average Weekly Earnings                                | \$1,033.60                              | \$1,010.10          | \$989.71            | 2.3                           | 4.4            |
| Average Weekly Hours                                   | 44.9                                    | 45.5                | 46.4                | -1.3                          | -3.2           |
| Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings                 |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Average Weekly Earnings                                | \$893.17                                | \$859.67            | \$835.27            | 3.9                           | 6.9            |
| Average Weekly Hours                                   | 43.4                                    | 42.6                | 43.8                | 1.9                           | -0.9           |
| U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings                    |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Average Weekly Earnings                                | \$720.80                                | \$729.24            | \$704.30            | -1.2                          | 2.3            |
| Average Weekly Hours                                   | 40.7                                    | 41.2                | 40.9                | -1.2                          | -0.5           |
| Wyoming Unemployment Insurance                         |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Weeks Compensated                                      | 10,180                                  | 9,219               | 8,570               | 10.4                          | 18.8           |
| Benefits Paid                                          | \$3,057,774                             | \$2,802,868         | \$2,315,163         | 9.1                           | 32.1           |
| Average Weekly Benefit Payment                         | \$300.37                                | \$304.03            | \$270.15            | -1.2                          | 11.2           |
| State Insured Covered Jobs <sup>a</sup>                | 282,053                                 | 285,004             | 272,324             | -1.0                          | 3.6            |
| Insured Unemployment Rate                              | 0.8%                                    | 0.8%                | 0.7%                | N/A                           | N/A            |
| Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers  |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Items                       | 220.0                                   | 218.8               | 208.3               | 0.5                           | 5.6            |
| Food & Beverages                                       | 215.3                                   | 213.4               | 203.5               | 0.9                           | 5.8            |
| Housing                                                | 219.6                                   | 217.9               | 211.3               | 0.8                           | 3.9            |
| Apparel                                                | 114.4                                   | 117.0               | 113.5               | -2.3                          | 0.8            |
| Transportation                                         | 212.8                                   | 211.8               | 187.7               | 0.5                           | 13.4           |
| Medical Care                                           | 364.0                                   | 363.6               | 351.6               | 0.1                           | 3.5            |
| Recreation (Dec. 1997 = 100)                           | 113.3                                   | 113.0               | 111.3               | 0.3                           | 1.7            |
| Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997 = 100)                    | 123.4                                   | 122.8               | 119.0               | 0.5                           | 3.7            |
| Other Goods & Services                                 | 346.8                                   | 345.9               | 333.4               | 0.3                           | 4.0            |
| Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) – All Commodities | 205.6                                   | 200.7               | 175.1               | 2.4                           | 17.4           |
| Wyoming Building Permits                               |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)         |                                         |                     |                     |                               |                |
| Total Units                                            | 293                                     | 330                 | 238                 | -11.2                         | 23.1           |
| Valuation                                              | \$55,321,000                            | \$54,169,000        | \$53,317,000        | 2.1                           | 3.8            |
| Single Family Homes                                    | 232                                     | 208                 | 223                 | 11.5                          | 4.0            |
| Valuation                                              | \$52,335,000                            | \$47,714,000        | \$51,796,000        | 9.7                           | 1.0            |
| Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY    | 76                                      | 74                  | 70                  | 2.7                           | 8.6            |

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

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



## Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

*The highest unemployment rates were found in Big Horn (4.6%), Platte (4.5%), and Goshen (4.4%) counties.*

| REGION<br>County                    | Labor Force    |                |                | Employed       |                |                | Unemployed   |              |              | Unemployment Rates |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | Jul            | Jun            | Jul            | Jul            | Jun            | Jul            | Jul          | Jun          | Jul          | Jul                | Jun         | Jul         |
|                                     | 2008<br>(p)    | 2008<br>(r)    | 2007<br>(b)    | 2008<br>(p)    | 2008<br>(r)    | 2007<br>(b)    | 2008<br>(p)  | 2008<br>(r)  | 2007<br>(b)  | 2008<br>(p)        | 2008<br>(r) | 2007<br>(b) |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>                    | <b>45,463</b>  | <b>45,453</b>  | <b>45,847</b>  | <b>43,823</b>  | <b>43,840</b>  | <b>44,375</b>  | <b>1,640</b> | <b>1,613</b> | <b>1,472</b> | <b>3.6</b>         | <b>3.5</b>  | <b>3.2</b>  |
| Big Horn                            | 4,830          | 4,980          | 5,089          | 4,609          | 4,764          | 4,893          | 221          | 216          | 196          | 4.6                | 4.3         | 3.9         |
| Fremont                             | 17,944         | 18,013         | 18,207         | 17,200         | 17,291         | 17,534         | 744          | 722          | 673          | 4.1                | 4.0         | 3.7         |
| Hot Springs                         | 2,340          | 2,396          | 2,447          | 2,257          | 2,307          | 2,373          | 83           | 89           | 74           | 3.5                | 3.7         | 3.0         |
| Park                                | 16,119         | 15,858         | 15,830         | 15,667         | 15,410         | 15,444         | 452          | 448          | 386          | 2.8                | 2.8         | 2.4         |
| Washakie                            | 4,230          | 4,206          | 4,274          | 4,090          | 4,068          | 4,131          | 140          | 138          | 143          | 3.3                | 3.3         | 3.3         |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>                    | <b>53,584</b>  | <b>54,361</b>  | <b>52,296</b>  | <b>52,178</b>  | <b>52,944</b>  | <b>51,067</b>  | <b>1,406</b> | <b>1,417</b> | <b>1,229</b> | <b>2.6</b>         | <b>2.6</b>  | <b>2.4</b>  |
| Campbell                            | 26,770         | 27,134         | 25,598         | 26,223         | 26,563         | 25,082         | 547          | 571          | 516          | 2.0                | 2.1         | 2.0         |
| Crook                               | 3,510          | 3,603          | 3,596          | 3,396          | 3,495          | 3,512          | 114          | 108          | 84           | 3.2                | 3.0         | 2.3         |
| Johnson                             | 4,189          | 4,221          | 4,059          | 4,018          | 4,072          | 3,940          | 171          | 149          | 119          | 4.1                | 3.5         | 2.9         |
| Sheridan                            | 16,022         | 16,285         | 15,857         | 15,554         | 15,794         | 15,443         | 468          | 491          | 414          | 2.9                | 3.0         | 2.6         |
| Weston                              | 3,093          | 3,118          | 3,186          | 2,987          | 3,020          | 3,090          | 106          | 98           | 96           | 3.4                | 3.1         | 3.0         |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>                    | <b>69,695</b>  | <b>68,373</b>  | <b>68,290</b>  | <b>68,028</b>  | <b>66,758</b>  | <b>66,919</b>  | <b>1,667</b> | <b>1,615</b> | <b>1,371</b> | <b>2.4</b>         | <b>2.4</b>  | <b>2.0</b>  |
| Lincoln                             | 9,524          | 9,538          | 9,388          | 9,233          | 9,259          | 9,180          | 291          | 279          | 208          | 3.1                | 2.9         | 2.2         |
| Sublette                            | 7,332          | 7,243          | 7,111          | 7,223          | 7,143          | 7,019          | 109          | 100          | 92           | 1.5                | 1.4         | 1.3         |
| Sweetwater                          | 24,296         | 24,213         | 23,736         | 23,695         | 23,625         | 23,209         | 601          | 588          | 527          | 2.5                | 2.4         | 2.2         |
| Teton                               | 17,419         | 16,311         | 16,698         | 17,115         | 16,009         | 16,453         | 304          | 302          | 245          | 1.7                | 1.9         | 1.5         |
| Uinta                               | 11,124         | 11,068         | 11,357         | 10,762         | 10,722         | 11,058         | 362          | 346          | 299          | 3.3                | 3.1         | 2.6         |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>                    | <b>71,894</b>  | <b>71,604</b>  | <b>71,418</b>  | <b>69,297</b>  | <b>69,077</b>  | <b>69,138</b>  | <b>2,597</b> | <b>2,527</b> | <b>2,280</b> | <b>3.6</b>         | <b>3.5</b>  | <b>3.2</b>  |
| Albany                              | 17,979         | 17,956         | 17,950         | 17,514         | 17,458         | 17,504         | 465          | 498          | 446          | 2.6                | 2.8         | 2.5         |
| Goshen                              | 5,772          | 5,937          | 5,909          | 5,519          | 5,698          | 5,705          | 253          | 239          | 204          | 4.4                | 4.0         | 3.5         |
| Laramie                             | 43,026         | 42,437         | 42,443         | 41,366         | 40,856         | 41,004         | 1,660        | 1,581        | 1,439        | 3.9                | 3.7         | 3.4         |
| Niobrara                            | 1,207          | 1,236          | 1,192          | 1,162          | 1,190          | 1,166          | 45           | 46           | 26           | 3.7                | 3.7         | 2.2         |
| Platte                              | 3,910          | 4,038          | 3,924          | 3,736          | 3,875          | 3,759          | 174          | 163          | 165          | 4.5                | 4.0         | 4.2         |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                      | <b>56,030</b>  | <b>55,847</b>  | <b>55,441</b>  | <b>54,381</b>  | <b>54,200</b>  | <b>53,953</b>  | <b>1,649</b> | <b>1,647</b> | <b>1,488</b> | <b>2.9</b>         | <b>2.9</b>  | <b>2.7</b>  |
| Carbon                              | 8,467          | 8,584          | 8,370          | 8,204          | 8,328          | 8,135          | 263          | 256          | 235          | 3.1                | 3.0         | 2.8         |
| Converse                            | 6,976          | 7,010          | 6,848          | 6,771          | 6,812          | 6,667          | 205          | 198          | 181          | 2.9                | 2.8         | 2.6         |
| Natrona                             | 40,587         | 40,253         | 40,223         | 39,406         | 39,060         | 39,151         | 1,181        | 1,193        | 1,072        | 2.9                | 3.0         | 2.7         |
| <b>STATEWIDE</b>                    | <b>296,664</b> | <b>295,641</b> | <b>293,292</b> | <b>287,706</b> | <b>286,821</b> | <b>285,453</b> | <b>8,958</b> | <b>8,820</b> | <b>7,839</b> | <b>3.0</b>         | <b>3.0</b>  | <b>2.7</b>  |
| Statewide Seasonally Adjusted ..... |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |              |              | 3.6                | 3.2         | 3.2         |
| U.S.....                            |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |              |              | 6.0                | 5.7         | 4.9         |
| U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....       |                |                |                |                |                |                |              |              |              | 5.7                | 5.5         | 4.7         |

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/08. Run date 08/08.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

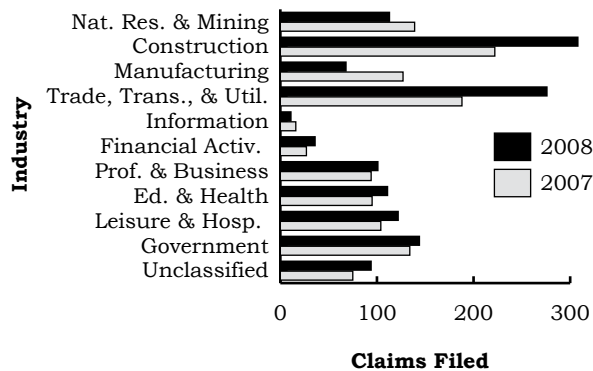
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

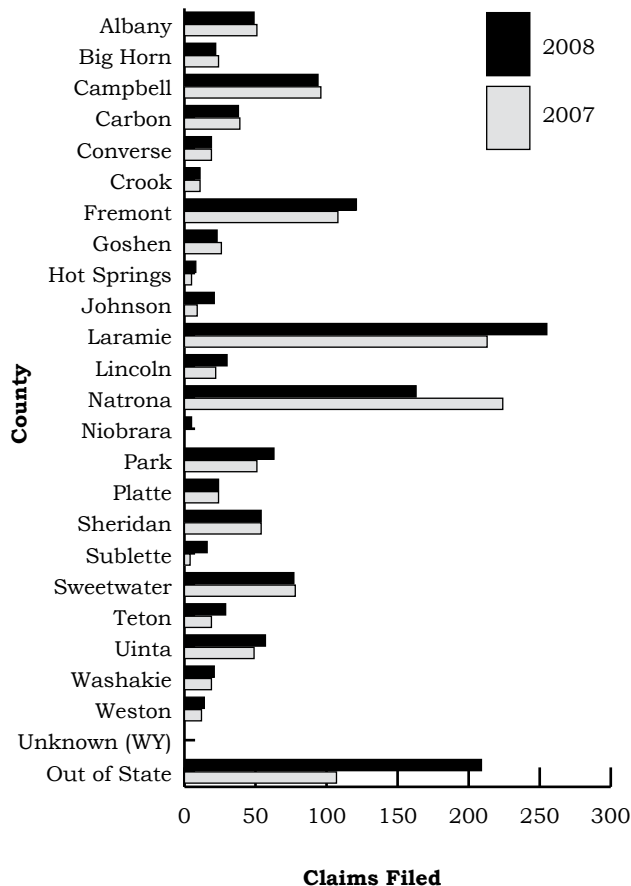
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

July 2008 initial claims increased 12.7% compared to last year. Construction and transportation, warehousing, & utilities were the primary contributors to the increase.

## Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2008



## Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2008



## Initial Claims

| WYOMING STATEWIDE               | Percent Change |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | Claims Filed   |       |       | Jun08 | Jul07 |
|                                 | Jul08          | Jun08 | Jul07 | Jul08 | Jul08 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS FILED              | 1,424          | 1,484 | 1,264 | -4.0  | 12.7  |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING           | 489            | 632   | 488   | -22.6 | 0.2   |
| Natural Resources & Mining      | 113            | 128   | 139   | -11.7 | -18.7 |
| Mining                          | 110            | 127   | 133   | -13.4 | -17.3 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction            | 10             | 8     | 5     | 25.0  | 100.0 |
| Construction                    | 308            | 443   | 222   | -30.5 | 38.7  |
| Manufacturing                   | 68             | 61    | 127   | 11.5  | -46.5 |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING         | 697            | 623   | 567   | 11.9  | 22.9  |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 276            | 215   | 188   | 28.4  | 46.8  |
| Wholesale Trade                 | 46             | 43    | 35    | 7.0   | 31.4  |
| Retail Trade                    | 126            | 121   | 106   | 4.1   | 18.9  |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities    | 104            | 51    | 47    | 103.9 | 121.3 |
| Information                     | 11             | 12    | 16    | -8.3  | -31.3 |
| Financial Activities            | 36             | 32    | 27    | 12.5  | 33.3  |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 101            | 76    | 94    | 32.9  | 7.4   |
| Educational & Health Services   | 111            | 160   | 95    | -30.6 | 16.8  |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 122            | 98    | 104   | 24.5  | 17.3  |
| Other Services                  | 40             | 30    | 43    | 33.3  | -7.0  |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT                | 144            | 134   | 134   | 7.5   | 7.5   |
| Federal Government              | 29             | 31    | 37    | -6.5  | -21.6 |
| State Government                | 17             | 17    | 17    | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Local Government                | 98             | 86    | 80    | 14.0  | 22.5  |
| Local Education                 | 28             | 39    | 24    | -28.2 | 16.7  |
| UNCLASSIFIED                    | 94             | 95    | 75    | -1.1  | 25.3  |

### LARAMIE COUNTY

|                                 |            |            |            |             |             |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>       | <b>256</b> | <b>231</b> | <b>211</b> | <b>10.8</b> | <b>21.3</b> |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING           | 60         | 79         | 52         | -24.1       | 15.4        |
| Construction                    | 44         | 66         | 45         | -33.3       | -2.2        |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING         | 154        | 126        | 127        | 22.2        | 21.3        |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 70         | 48         | 48         | 45.8        | 45.8        |
| Financial Activities            | 11         | 8          | 5          | 37.5        | 120.0       |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 28         | 19         | 22         | 47.4        | 27.3        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 16         | 28         | 23         | -42.9       | -30.4       |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 18         | 14         | 12         | 28.6        | 50.0        |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT                | 28         | 21         | 20         | 33.3        | 40.0        |
| UNCLASSIFIED                    | 14         | 5          | 12         | 180.0       | 16.7        |

### NATRONA COUNTY

|                                 |            |            |            |             |              |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>       | <b>164</b> | <b>173</b> | <b>222</b> | <b>-5.2</b> | <b>-26.1</b> |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING           | 63         | 73         | 125        | -13.7       | -49.6        |
| Construction                    | 23         | 48         | 25         | -52.1       | -8.0         |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING         | 93         | 88         | 88         | 5.7         | 5.7          |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 38         | 32         | 29         | 18.8        | 31.0         |
| Financial Activities            | 5          | 8          | 5          | -37.5       | 0.0          |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 11         | 8          | 13         | 37.5        | -15.4        |
| Educational & Health Services   | 17         | 21         | 13         | -19.0       | 30.8         |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 11         | 9          | 20         | 22.2        | -45.0        |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT                | 5          | 8          | 6          | -37.5       | -16.7        |
| UNCLASSIFIED                    | 3          | 4          | 3          | -25.0       | 0.0          |

## Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Continued weeks claimed were 11.9% greater than a year ago. Claims increased by 51.9% in construction and by 45.1% in professional & business services compared to July 2007.

### Continued Claims

| WYOMING STATEWIDE               | Percent Change |        |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | Claims Filed   |        |       | Jun08 | Jul07 |
|                                 | Jul08          | Jun08  | Jul07 | Jul08 | Jul08 |
| TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED             | 10,290         | 11,152 | 9,193 | -7.7  | 11.9  |
| TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS          | 2,566          | 3,411  | 2,672 | -24.8 | -4.0  |
| TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING           | 3,522          | 4,201  | 2,976 | -16.2 | 18.3  |
| Natural Resources & Mining      | 729            | 1,010  | 896   | -27.8 | -18.6 |
| Mining                          | 676            | 889    | 826   | -24.0 | -18.2 |
| Oil & Gas Extraction            | 51             | 80     | 41    | -36.3 | 24.4  |
| Construction                    | 2,247          | 2,632  | 1,479 | -14.6 | 51.9  |
| Manufacturing                   | 546            | 559    | 601   | -2.3  | -9.2  |
| TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING         | 4,914          | 5,232  | 4,391 | -6.1  | 11.9  |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 1,490          | 1,695  | 1,384 | -12.1 | 7.7   |
| Wholesale Trade                 | 290            | 315    | 263   | -7.9  | 10.3  |
| Retail Trade                    | 799            | 861    | 762   | -7.2  | 4.9   |
| Trans., Storage, & Utilities    | 401            | 519    | 359   | -22.7 | 11.7  |
| Information                     | 97             | 89     | 121   | 9.0   | -19.8 |
| Financial Activities            | 303            | 306    | 212   | -1.0  | 42.9  |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 791            | 845    | 545   | -6.4  | 45.1  |
| Educational & Health Services   | 1,023          | 872    | 1,140 | 17.3  | -10.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 913            | 1,123  | 754   | -18.7 | 21.1  |
| Other Services                  | 297            | 302    | 235   | -1.7  | 26.4  |
| TOTAL GOVERNMENT                | 1,056          | 905    | 1,217 | 16.7  | -13.2 |
| Federal Government              | 200            | 172    | 265   | 16.3  | -24.5 |
| State Government                | 145            | 148    | 227   | -2.0  | -36.1 |
| Local Government                | 711            | 585    | 725   | 21.5  | -1.9  |
| Local Education                 | 190            | 144    | 262   | 31.9  | -27.5 |
| UNCLASSIFIED                    | 798            | 814    | 609   | -2.0  | 31.0  |

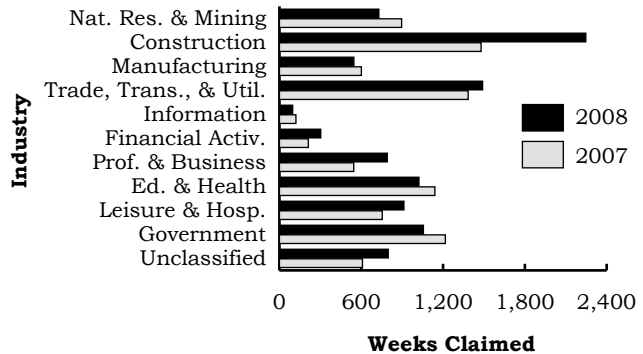
### LARAMIE COUNTY

|                                 |              |              |              |              |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>      | <b>1,852</b> | <b>1,898</b> | <b>1,616</b> | <b>-2.4</b>  | <b>14.6</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>   | <b>470</b>   | <b>580</b>   | <b>475</b>   | <b>-19.0</b> | <b>-1.1</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>449</b>   | <b>497</b>   | <b>338</b>   | <b>-9.7</b>  | <b>32.8</b>  |
| Construction                    | 340          | 389          | 284          | -12.6        | 19.7         |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>1,108</b> | <b>1,138</b> | <b>988</b>   | <b>-2.6</b>  | <b>12.1</b>  |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 386          | 399          | 395          | -3.3         | -2.3         |
| Financial Activities            | 79           | 64           | 46           | 23.4         | 71.7         |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 205          | 245          | 129          | -16.3        | 58.9         |
| Educational & Health Services   | 213          | 191          | 219          | 11.5         | -2.7         |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 180          | 177          | 97           | 1.7          | 85.6         |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>200</b>   | <b>171</b>   | <b>238</b>   | <b>17.0</b>  | <b>-16.0</b> |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>95</b>    | <b>92</b>    | <b>52</b>    | <b>3.3</b>   | <b>82.7</b>  |

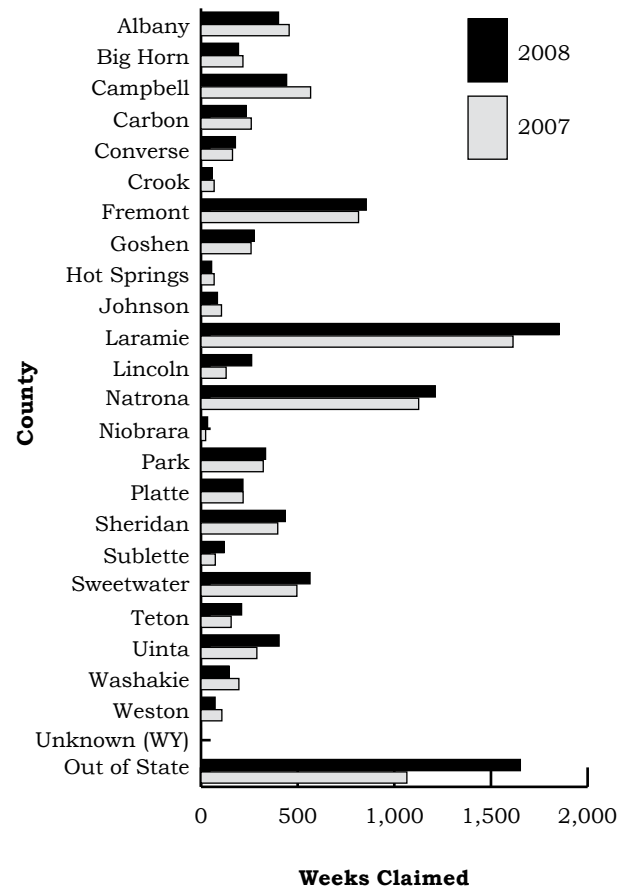
### NATRONA COUNTY

|                                 |              |              |              |              |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>      | <b>1,213</b> | <b>1,442</b> | <b>1,125</b> | <b>-15.9</b> | <b>7.8</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>   | <b>309</b>   | <b>439</b>   | <b>360</b>   | <b>-29.6</b> | <b>-14.2</b> |
| <b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>    | <b>394</b>   | <b>538</b>   | <b>335</b>   | <b>-26.8</b> | <b>17.6</b>  |
| Construction                    | 180          | 273          | 101          | -34.1        | 78.2         |
| <b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>  | <b>770</b>   | <b>842</b>   | <b>703</b>   | <b>-8.6</b>  | <b>9.5</b>   |
| Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util. | 207          | 244          | 202          | -15.2        | 2.5          |
| Financial Activities            | 86           | 103          | 32           | -16.5        | 168.8        |
| Professional & Business Serv.   | 120          | 143          | 62           | -16.1        | 93.5         |
| Educational & Health Services   | 157          | 150          | 244          | 4.7          | -35.7        |
| Leisure & Hospitality           | 97           | 106          | 115          | -8.5         | -15.7        |
| <b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>         | <b>34</b>    | <b>36</b>    | <b>65</b>    | <b>-5.6</b>  | <b>-47.7</b> |
| <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>             | <b>15</b>    | <b>26</b>    | <b>22</b>    | <b>-42.3</b> | <b>-31.8</b> |

### Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2008



### Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2008



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

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

