

TRENDS

What's In a Paycheck? Components of Hourly Compensation in Wyoming

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

When people discuss employee pay, they often only consider salaries. While salaries comprise the largest portion of total compensation, recent data indicate that benefits contribute an increasing proportion to total compensation. This article examines the components of hourly compensation in Wyoming for the private sector and local government using data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, the Wyoming Benefits Survey, and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Hourly wage and benefit costs showed considerable variation across Wyoming industries in 2003. Given that benefits cost increases have accelerated in recent years (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2004), it is valuable to understand how the components of compensation interact within the state. This article examines wage and benefit components and how they collectively provide a complete picture of compensation in Wyoming.

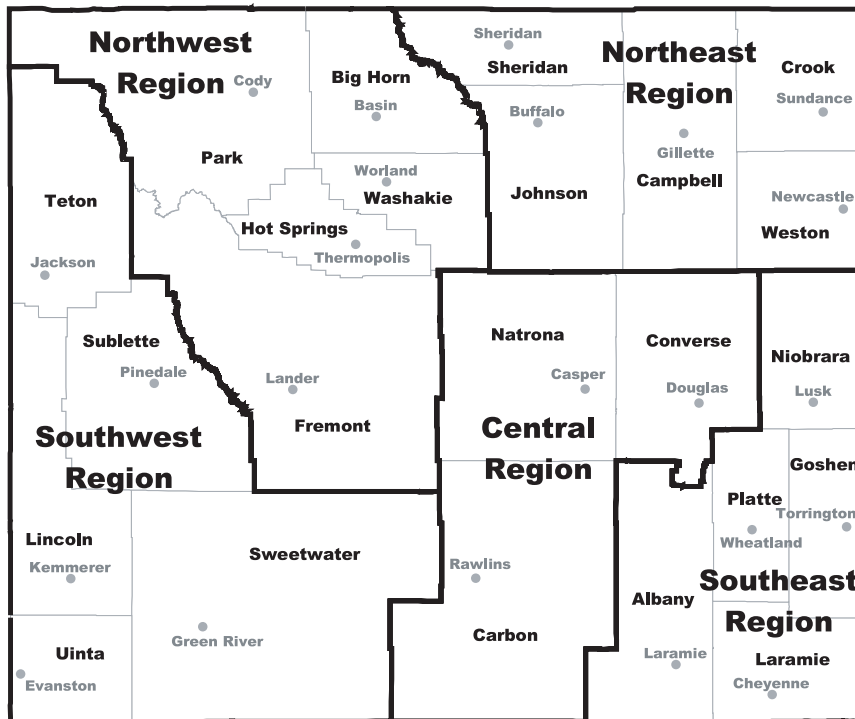
Using data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (2003), the Wyoming Benefits Survey (Cowan & Hauf, in press), and the Occupational Employment Statistics survey (Cowan & Hauf, in press), we can examine the relationships of compensation components for the private sector and Local Government. The statewide average hourly wage in 2003 was \$14.43 (see

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The average monthly wage has been rising at a rate well above that of inflation....page 6**
- **Job gains in Government largely related to the start of a new school year partially offset normal seasonal job losses in several industries....page 8**
- **Wyoming's unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.9%, but remains below its year-ago level of 4.3 percent and the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent....pages 8 & 13**
- **Over-the year statewide Unemployment Insurance continued weeks claimed decreased in most industries.....page 15**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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Table 1). The addition of employer-provided benefits increases the average hourly rate to \$16.97. A comparison of total hourly compensation for each industry studied is shown in Figure 1 (see page 4). Natural Resources & Mining employees earned approximately \$26.40 per hour when benefit costs are added to salaries. This value is considerably higher than the \$10.28 for workers in Leisure & Hospitality.

The data indicate that on average, employers pay 18 cents in benefit costs in addition to every dollar paid in salaries (total benefits divided by wages paid; see Figure 2, page 4). The ratio of benefits costs to salaries was highest in Local Government (28 cents), Leisure & Hospitality (26 cents), and Information (24 cents).

Industries paying the greatest hourly benefit wage per hour per worker were Mining (\$4.39 per hour) and Local Government (\$4.04 per hour, see Figures

3 and 4, page 5). Industries paying the least hourly benefit wage per worker included Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (\$1.66 per hour) and Education & Health Services (\$1.96 per hour; see Table 1).

Wyoming wage and salary costs vary because of several factors including the type of work performed (year-round compared to seasonal, skilled compared to unskilled), whether or not the workforce is under contract, and the sector in which business entities operate (public compared to private). More research needs to be conducted in these areas to determine the extent of their influence.

Studying how wages and benefits interact to produce total compensation costs provide insight into how compensation is used by firms to recruit, retain, and reward their employees.

(Text continued on page 5)

Table 1: Components of Hourly Compensation in Wyoming by Industry, 2003^a

Industry	Average Monthly Employment ^b	Share of Total Employment	Average Hourly Wage Per Worker	Average Health Care Premium Cost Per Worker	Average Hourly Total Benefits Paid	Average Total Hourly Compensation
Natural Resources & Mining	20,923	9.1%	\$22.01	\$0.94	\$4.39	\$26.40
Construction	21,760	9.4%	\$15.58	\$0.40	\$2.30	\$17.88
Manufacturing	10,265	4.4%	\$16.36	\$0.69	\$2.33	\$18.69
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	47,577	20.6%	\$13.72	\$0.50	\$1.66	\$15.38
Information	4,590	2.0%	\$14.05	\$1.44	\$3.38	\$17.43
Financial Activities	10,706	4.6%	\$15.78	\$0.82	\$2.15	\$17.93
Professional & Business Services	16,814	7.3%	\$15.90	\$0.67	\$2.04	\$17.94
Education & Health Services	20,480	8.9%	\$15.52	\$0.57	\$1.96	\$17.48
Leisure & Hospitality	31,930	13.8%	\$8.13	\$0.22	\$2.15	\$10.28
Other Services	7,683	3.3%	\$12.67	\$0.40	\$2.05	\$14.72
Local Government	38,054	16.5%	\$14.19	\$1.68	\$4.04	\$18.23
Statewide Average	230,782	100.0%	\$14.43	\$0.74	\$2.54	\$16.97

^aAverage wages per worker based on 2003 Occupational Employment Statistics data. Compensation component proportions based on 2003 Wyoming Benefits Survey data.

^bAverage monthly employment is the average employment value during the months in which businesses had one or more employees. Employment figures based on Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data.

Figure 1: Total Hourly Compensation (Including Benefits) by Industry, 2003

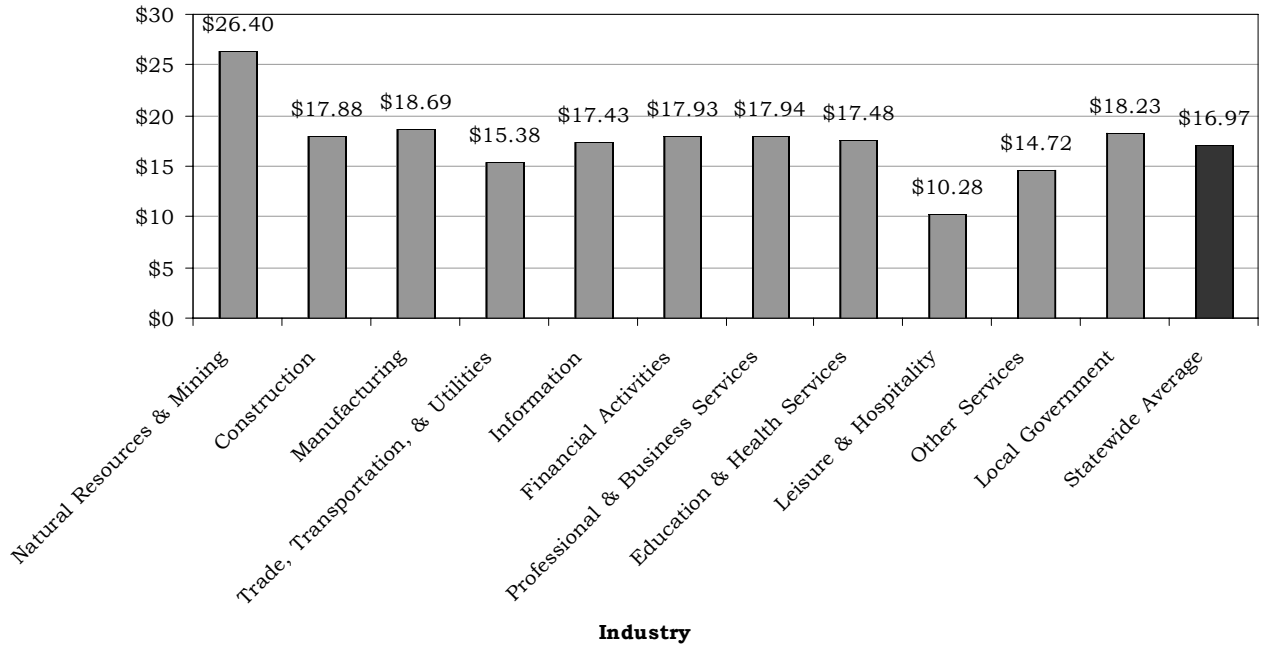


Figure 2: Average Benefits Amount Paid Per Hour for Each Dollar of Hourly Wage in Wyoming by Industry, 2003^a

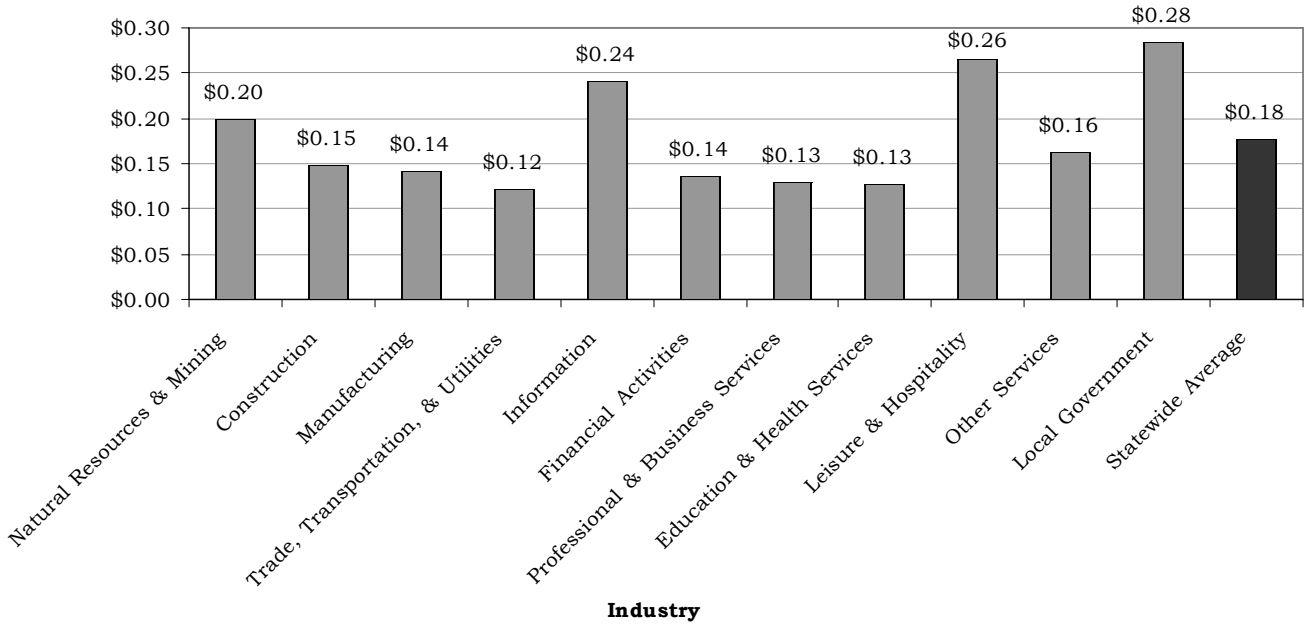


Figure 3: Components of Hourly Natural Resources & Mining Compensation in Wyoming, 2003

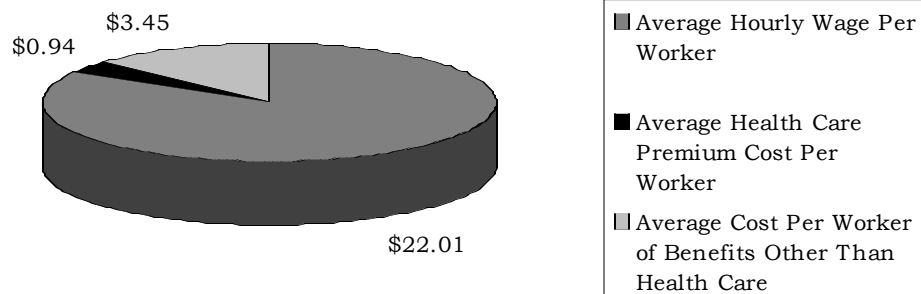
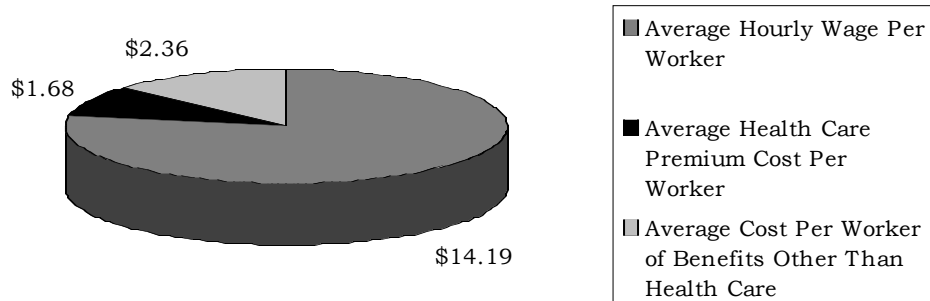


Figure 4: Components of Hourly Local Government Compensation in Wyoming, 2003



Future research on how the rising costs of health care change total compensation may furnish evidence of how these elements could affect employer profitability and viability.

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Brennan, N. (2003). [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages]. Unpublished raw data.

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High Rate of Growth Continuing for Wyoming Total Payroll and Average Wages

by: Susan J. Murray, Information Specialist/Desktop Publisher

Employment growth has been above 1.0 percent since August 2003, and the unemployment rate has dropped to a very low level (3.9%; see Seasonally Adjusted State Unemployment Rates, page 9). At the same time, the total payroll growth has been larger than 4.0 percent on an over-the-year basis since 3rd Quarter 2003 (2003Q3; see Figure below). The most recent data indicate Wyoming is slightly above 7.0 percent growth in total payroll. The Current Price Index (CPI; see

page 12) is rising at a rate of 2.5 percent; however, the average monthly wage (see Table, page 7) has been growing at 2.8 percent or greater since 2003Q2. During the most recent three quarters, the average wage has been rising at a rate well above that of inflation (4.1%). This high rate of growth with a low unemployment rate does not seem sustainable without non-resident labor.



Figure: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Total Payroll, 1st Quarter 2002 (2002Q1) to 2004Q2

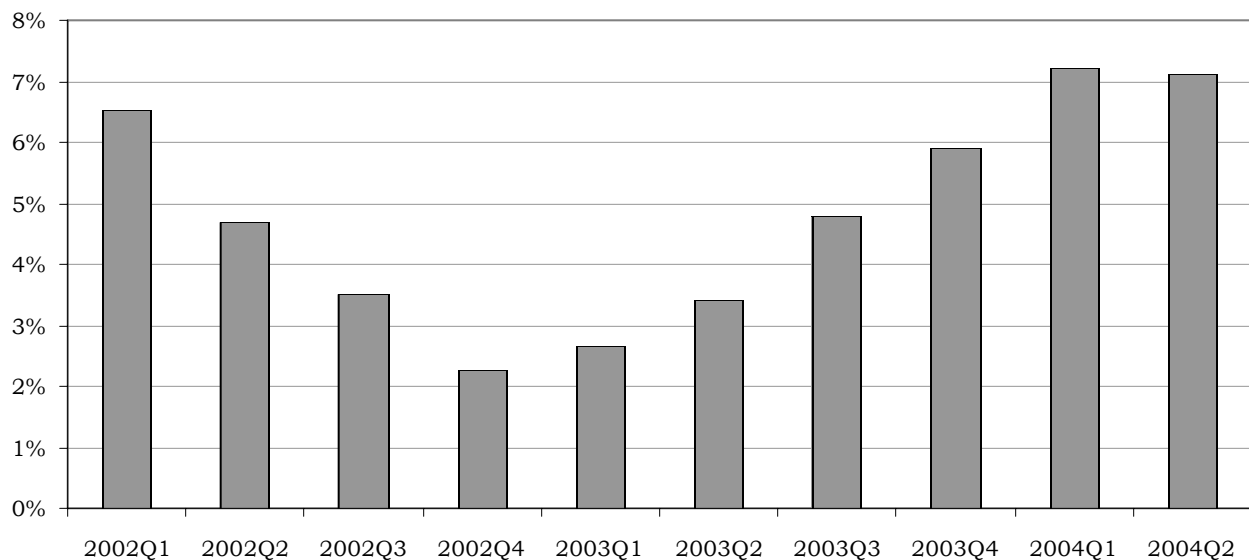


Table: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Monthly Wages, 1st Quarter 2001 (2001Q1) to 2004Q2

Year/Qtr	Average Monthly Employment	Percent Change	Total Payroll	Percent Change	Average Monthly Wages	Percent Change
2001Q1^a	226,629		\$1,535,933,304		\$2,259.10	
2002Q1	230,173	1.6%	\$1,636,196,080	6.5%	\$2,369.52	4.9%
2001Q2^a	240,402		\$1,645,964,811		\$2,282.24	
2002Q2	242,186	0.7%	\$1,722,950,712	4.7%	\$2,371.39	3.9%
2001Q3^a	245,724		\$1,685,283,523		\$2,286.15	
2002Q3	247,009	0.5%	\$1,744,667,330	3.5%	\$2,354.39	3.0%
2001Q4	238,653		\$1,798,744,300		\$2,512.36	
2002Q4	239,105	0.2%	\$1,839,183,069	2.2%	\$2,563.98	2.1%
2002Q1	230,173		\$1,636,196,080		\$2,369.52	
2003Q1	230,620	0.2%	\$1,679,813,923	2.7%	\$2,427.97	2.5%
2002Q2	242,186		\$1,722,950,712		\$2,371.39	
2003Q2	243,630	0.6%	\$1,781,866,184	3.4%	\$2,437.94	2.8%
2002Q3	247,009		\$1,744,667,330		\$2,354.39	
2003Q3	250,079	1.2%	\$1,828,341,523	4.8%	\$2,437.02	3.5%
2002Q4	239,105		\$1,839,183,069		\$2,563.98	
2003Q4	243,210	1.7%	\$1,947,865,484	5.9%	\$2,669.66	4.1%
2003Q1	230,620		\$1,679,813,923		\$2,427.97	
2004Q1	237,527	3.0%	\$1,800,717,857	7.2%	\$2,527.04	4.1%
2003Q2	243,630		\$1,781,866,184		\$2,437.94	
2004Q2	250,721	2.9%	\$1,908,715,798	7.1%	\$2,537.64	4.1%

^aFinal numbers.

What's New?

Local Occupational Employment and Wage Rates

The newest Wyoming Occupational Employment Statistics wage and employment estimates are now available online only at: <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/20034pub/TOC000.HTM>

Introducing R&P's *Occasional Publication* series

Wyoming Labor Force Trends has been evolving to present less technical articles touching mainly on results of studies. The recently premiered *Occasional Paper* targets readers who additionally want to know the methodology and full findings of our research. Contact Associate Editor Susan Murray at (307) 473-3835 or smurral@state.wy.us to be added to the *Occasional Paper* mailing list. You may also view our first issue at: <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/Occasional/No1/toc.htm>

Wyoming Employment Up Slightly in September

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.7 percent in August to 3.9 percent in September. It remains below its year ago level of 4.3 percent and the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent. Job growth continued at a moderate pace in Wyoming as 4,600 jobs (1.8%) were added on an over-the-year basis. U.S. job growth has been increasing in recent months and stood at 1.4 percent in September. However, comparisons between job growth in Wyoming and the U.S. must recognize that employment in Wyoming has grown steadily since 1988, while U.S. employment remains 940,000 jobs below its March 2001 peak.

From August to September, Wyoming lost 400 jobs or 0.2 percent. Normal seasonal job losses in Natural Resources & Mining (-400 jobs or -1.9%), Construction (-600 jobs or -2.8%), Retail Trade (-500 jobs or -1.6%), Professional & Business Services (-500 jobs or -3.1%), and Leisure & Hospitality (-2,400 jobs or -6.6%), were partially offset by job gains in Government (4,100 jobs or 6.8%). Most job gains in Government were related to the start of a new school year at public schools and colleges.

Increased oil & gas drilling activity resulted in large over-the-year job gains in

Natural Resources & Mining (1,800 jobs or 9.5%). Other large gains were reported in Wholesale Trade (400 jobs or 5.7%), Transportation & Utilities (400 jobs or 3.4%), Financial Activities (500 jobs or 4.8%), Educational & Health Services (1,300 jobs or 6.3%), Leisure & Hospitality (700 jobs or 2.1%), and Government (1,100 jobs or 1.7%).

When compared to September 2003, employment fell by 1,200 jobs or 5.4 percent in Construction. There was an unusual amount of construction activity in Wyoming during the late summer of 2003, and September's estimate indicates a return to more normal levels. Job losses also occurred in Professional & Business Services (-600 jobs or -3.7%) and Other Services (-100 jobs or -1.0%).

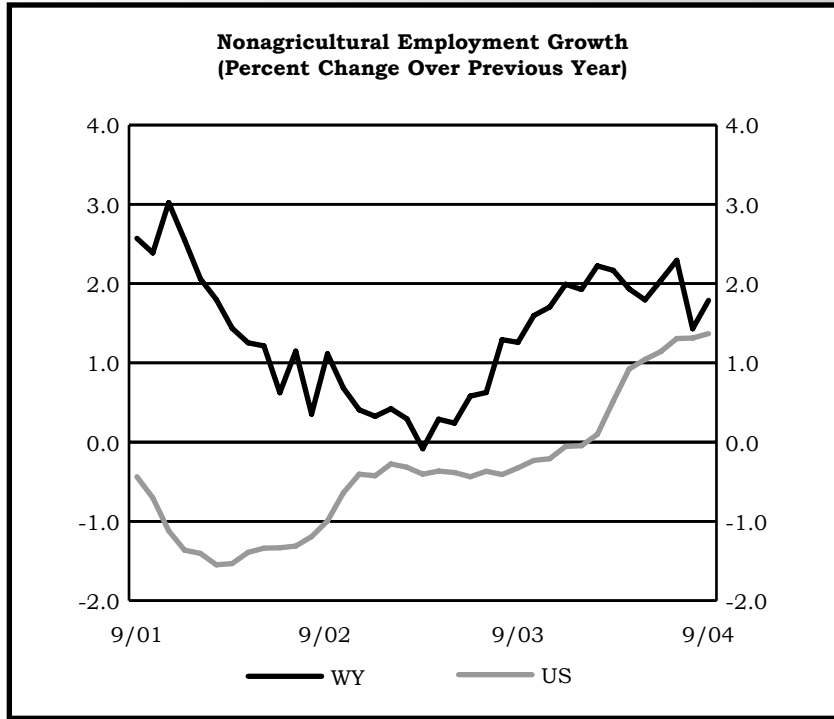
Around the state, most county unemployment rates increased slightly from their August levels. Laramie County's unemployment rate increased from 3.9 percent in August to 4.4 percent in September, making it the highest rate in the state. Johnson County posted the lowest unemployment rate (1.3%).



Happy Holidays!

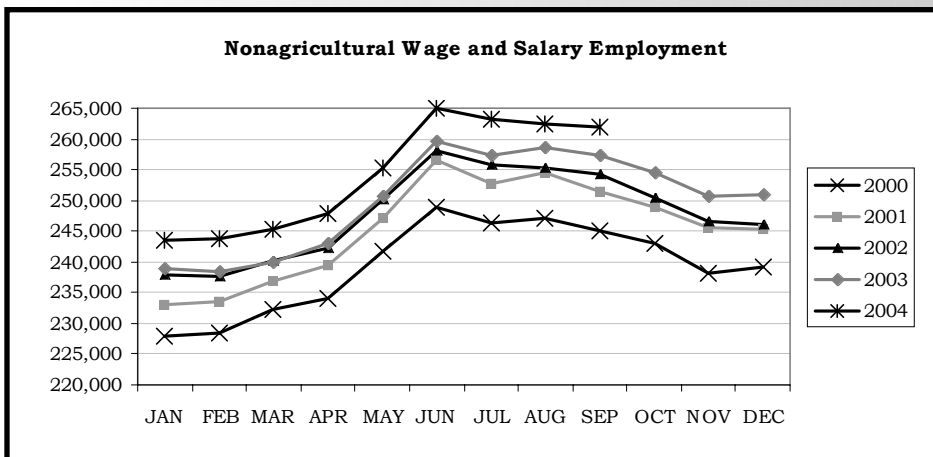
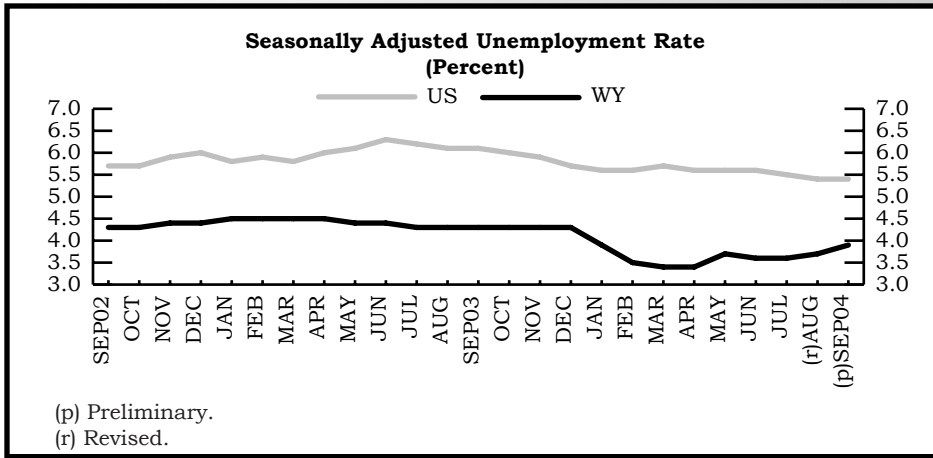
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State Unemployment Rates September 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.4
District of Columbia	7.9
Alaska	7.6
Oregon	7.3
South Carolina	6.9
Michigan	6.8
Illinois	6.0
Mississippi	6.0
Ohio	6.0
California	5.9
Alabama	5.7
Missouri	5.6
Washington	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
New York	5.5
Texas	5.5
United States	5.4
Louisiana	5.3
New Mexico	5.3
Pennsylvania	5.3
Indiana	5.2
Montana	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Idaho	5.0
Rhode Island	5.0
West Virginia	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Colorado	4.9
Arizona	4.8
New Jersey	4.8
North Carolina	4.8
Utah	4.8
Connecticut	4.7
Iowa	4.7
Kansas	4.7
Maine	4.7
Kentucky	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
Minnesota	4.6
Florida	4.5
Oklahoma	4.4
Georgia	4.1
Maryland	4.1
Delaware	3.9
Nevada	3.9
Wyoming	3.9
Nebraska	3.7
North Dakota	3.6
New Hampshire	3.5
South Dakota	3.4
Vermont	3.3
Virginia	3.2
Hawaii	3.1



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Increased oil & gas drilling activity resulted in large over-the-year gains in Natural Resources & Mining (1,800 jobs or 9.5%).

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment						
	Sep04(p)	Aug04(r)	Sep03(b)	Sep04	Sep04	Aug04	Sep03	Sep04(p)	Aug04(r)	Sep03(b)	Sep04	Sep04	Aug04	Sep03					
WYOMING STATEWIDE																			
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	262.0	262.4	257.4	-0.2	1.8	LARAMIE COUNTY								40.7	41.1	40.5	-1.0	0.5	
TOTAL PRIVATE	198.0	202.5	194.5	-2.2	1.8	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT								28.5	28.9	28.3	-1.4	0.7	
GOODS PRODUCING	51.4	52.3	50.5	-1.7	1.8	GOODS PRODUCING								4.4	4.5	4.2	-2.2	4.8	
Natural Resources & Mining	20.7	21.1	18.9	-1.9	9.5	Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction								2.9	3.0	2.7	-3.3	7.4	
Mining	20.6	21.0	18.8	-1.9	9.6	Manufacturing								1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.5	3.6	3.3	-2.8	6.1	SERVICE PROVIDING								36.3	36.6	36.3	-0.8	0.0	
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.4	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities								8.6	8.7	8.5	-1.1	1.2	
Coal Mining	4.9	5.0	4.9	-2.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade								0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Support Activities for Mining	9.7	10.0	8.1	-3.0	19.8	Retail Trade								5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	-1.8	
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	6.5	6.7	5.5	-3.0	18.2	Information								0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	-10.0	
Construction	21.0	21.6	22.2	-2.8	-5.4	Financial Activities								2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
Construction of Buildings	4.1	4.3	4.2	-4.7	-2.4	Professional & Business Services								3.4	3.4	3.5	0.0	-2.9	
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	6.3	6.6	7.7	-4.5	-18.2	Educational & Health Services								3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3	
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.6	10.7	10.3	-0.9	2.9	Leisure & Hospitality								4.5	4.7	4.5	-4.3	0.0	
Manufacturing	9.7	9.6	9.4	1.0	3.2	Other Services								1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	4.9	0.0	4.1	TOTAL GOVERNMENT								12.2	12.2	12.2	0.0	0.0	
Non-Durable Goods	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.2	2.2	Federal Government								2.6	2.7	2.6	-3.7	0.0	
SERVICE PROVIDING	210.6	210.1	206.9	0.2	1.8	State Government								3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0	
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	50.2	50.7	49.4	-1.0	1.6	Local Government								5.7	5.6	5.7	1.8	0.0	
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.4	7.0	0.0	5.7	NATRONA COUNTY													
Merchant Whlslrs., Durable	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT								35.7	35.6	34.5	0.3	3.5	
Retail Trade	30.7	31.2	30.7	-1.6	0.0	TOTAL PRIVATE								30.2	30.4	29.5	-0.7	2.4	
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4	GOODS PRODUCING								7.0	7.0	6.7	0.0	4.5	
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	Natural Resources & Mining								2.9	2.9	2.6	0.0	11.5	
Food & Beverage Stores	4.8	4.8	4.9	0.0	-2.0	Construction								2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	
Grocery Stores	3.7	3.9	3.9	-5.1	-5.1	Manufacturing								1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Gasoline Stations	4.3	4.5	4.4	-4.4	-2.3	SERVICE PROVIDING								28.7	28.6	27.8	0.3	3.2	
General Merchandise Stores	6.1	6.4	6.2	-4.7	-1.6	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities								8.2	8.2	7.8	0.0	5.1	
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade								2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8	
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.1	12.1	11.7	0.0	3.4	Retail Trade								4.9	4.9	4.6	0.0	6.5	
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8	Transport., Warehouse, & Util.								1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	
Transportation & Warehousing	9.9	9.9	9.6	0.0	3.1	Information								0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	
Truck Transportation	3.4	3.6	3.3	-5.6	3.0	Financial Activities								1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	
Information	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0	Professional & Business Services								3.0	3.2	3.2	-6.3	-6.3	
Financial Activities	10.9	10.8	10.4	0.9	4.8	Educational & Health Services								4.6	4.6	4.4	0.0	4.5	
Finance & Insurance	7.2	7.1	6.9	1.4	4.3	Leisure & Hospitality								3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.0	5.7	Other Services								1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	
Professional & Business Services	15.6	16.1	16.2	-3.1	-3.7	TOTAL GOVERNMENT								5.5	5.2	5.0	5.8	10.0	
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	7.7	7.8	7.6	-1.3	1.3	Federal Government								0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3	
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0	State Government								0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0	Local Government								4.0	3.7	3.6	8.1	11.1	
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.3	7.7	8.1	-5.2	-9.9	Local Education								2.7	2.1	2.4	28.6	12.5	
Educational & Health Services	22.1	22.2	20.8	-0.5	6.3	Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.													
Educational	2.3	2.3	2.0	0.0	15.0	(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.													
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.8	19.9	18.8	-0.5	5.3														
Ambulatory Health Care	7.5	7.5	7.0	0.0	7.1														
Offices of Physicians	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4														
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7														
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.6	4.4	-2.2	2.3														
Social Assistance	5.0	5.0	4.7	0.0	6.4														
Leisure & Hospitality	34.2	36.6	33.5	-6.6	2.1														
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	3.1	3.5	3.1	-11.4	0.0														
Accommodation & Food Services	31.1	33.1	30.4	-6.0	2.3														
Accommodation	12.3	13.8	11.8	-10.9	4.2														
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	18.8	19.3	18.6	-2.6	1.1														
Other Services	9.5	9.7	9.6	-2.1	-1.0														
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2														
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	64.0	59.9	62.9	6.8	1.7														
Federal Government	8.3	8.5	8.4	-2.4	-1.2														
State Government	14.7	14.2	14.3	3.5	2.8														
State Govt. Education	5.4	4.8	5.0	12.5	8.0														
Local Government	41.0	37.2	40.2	10.2	2.0														
Local Govt. Education	21.0	16.1	20.3	30.4	3.4														
Hospitals	5.8	5.8	5.5	0.0	5.5														

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	Sep04(p)	Aug04(r)	Sep03(b)	Sep04	Sep04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.5	22.5	21.6	0.0	4.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.7	19.0	18.0	-1.6	3.9
GOODS PRODUCING	9.2	9.4	8.9	-2.1	3.4
Natural Resources & Mining	6.4	6.5	6.1	-1.5	4.9
Construction	2.3	2.4	2.3	-4.2	0.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.3	13.1	12.7	1.5	4.7
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.1	4.1	3.9	0.0	5.1
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.4	1.5	1.3	-6.7	7.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.8	3.5	3.6	8.6	5.6
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.6	21.0	20.9	2.9	3.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.4	17.3	16.7	0.6	4.2
GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.1	7.0	4.2	5.7
Natural Resources & Mining	4.1	4.1	3.6	0.0	13.9
Construction	2.1	1.8	2.2	16.7	-4.5
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.2	13.9	13.9	2.2	2.2
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.3	2.1	-4.3	4.8
Other Services	0.6	0.7	0.6	-14.3	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	3.7	4.2	13.5	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	18.2	20.0	18.0	-9.0	1.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.8	17.7	15.7	-10.7	0.6
GOODS PRODUCING	2.3	2.4	2.5	-4.2	-8.0
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.1	2.2	2.3	-4.5	-8.7
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.9	17.6	15.5	-9.7	2.6
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.4	2.7	2.6	-11.1	-7.7
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.9	0.8	-11.1	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.9	0.7	-11.1	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	7.0	8.2	6.6	-14.6	6.1
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.4	2.3	2.3	4.3	4.3

State Unemployment Rates September 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.8
District of Columbia	7.8
Alaska	6.7
South Carolina	6.7
Oregon	6.5
Michigan	6.2
Alabama	5.7
California	5.7
Illinois	5.7
Ohio	5.7
Mississippi	5.6
Missouri	5.4
New York	5.4
Texas	5.4
New Mexico	5.3
United States	5.1
Washington	5.1
Arizona	5.0
Arkansas	5.0
Louisiana	5.0
Pennsylvania	4.9
Indiana	4.8
Tennessee	4.8
Florida	4.7
Colorado	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
New Jersey	4.6
Rhode Island	4.6
Utah	4.5
Kansas	4.4
Minnesota	4.4
North Carolina	4.4
West Virginia	4.4
Kentucky	4.3
Montana	4.3
Connecticut	4.2
Georgia	4.2
Iowa	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Idaho	4.1
Maine	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
Delaware	3.9
Maryland	3.9
Nevada	3.9
Nebraska	3.4
New Hampshire	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Wyoming	3.3
Hawaii	3.2
Vermont	2.9
South Dakota	2.8
North Dakota	2.6

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

Benefits paid by Wyoming Unemployment Insurance fell 19.4 percent from September 2003 to September 2004, signaling improvement in the labor market.

	Sep 2004 (p)	Aug 2004 (r)	Sep 2003 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	280,632	283,557	280,305	-1.0	0.1
Unemployed	9,148	8,612	10,213	6.2	-10.4
Employed	271,484	274,945	270,092	-1.3	0.5
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.3%/3.9%	3.0%/3.7%	3.6%/4.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.1%/5.4%	5.4%/5.4%	5.8%/6.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,672,000	7,368,000	7,160,000	4.1	7.2
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.3%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	412,000	534,000	388,000	-22.8	6.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,073,000	4,395,000	4,455,000	-7.3	-8.6
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,018.75	\$984.84	\$973.10	3.4	4.7
Average Weekly Hours	44.8	43.5	43.5	3.0	3.0
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$829.80	\$836.75	\$806.81	-0.8	2.8
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	45.5	44.6	-1.1	0.9
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$682.17	\$648.02	\$628.61	5.3	8.5
Average Weekly Hours	39.5	40.3	38.4	-2.0	2.9
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$662.99	\$660.14	\$647.50	0.4	2.4
Average Weekly Hours	40.5	40.8	40.8	-0.7	-0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	7,689	9,434	9,792	-18.5	-21.5
Benefits Paid	\$1,850,407	\$2,254,695	\$2,294,482	-17.9	-19.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$240.66	\$239.00	\$234.32	0.7	2.7
State Insured Covered Jobs	240,398	239,173	235,491	0.5	2.1
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	189.9	189.5	185.2	0.2	2.5
Housing	187.2	187.3	181.3	-0.1	3.3
Apparel	191.0	191.2	185.8	-0.1	2.8
Transportation	121.2	116.5	122.0	4.0	-0.7
Medical Care	162.9	162.9	159.4	0.0	2.2
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	312.3	311.6	299.2	0.2	4.4
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	108.6	108.5	107.7	0.1	0.8
Other Goods & Services	112.9	111.7	110.9	1.1	1.8
Other Goods & Services	306.3	305.5	299.9	0.3	2.1
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All	148	148	139	-0.1	6.6
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	319	272	204	17.3	56.4
Valuation	\$52,621,000	\$55,024,000	\$33,694,000	-4.4	56.2
Single Family Homes	264	217	182	21.7	45.1
Valuation	\$48,690,000	\$50,600,000	\$31,410,000	-3.8	55.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	85	84	65	1.2	30.8

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

Laramie County's unemployment rate increased from 3.9 percent in August to 4.4 percent in September, making it the highest rate in the state.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Sep 2004 (p)	Aug 2004 (r)	Sep 2003 (b)	Sep 2004 (p)	Aug 2004 (r)	Sep 2003 (b)	Sep 2004 (p)	Aug 2004 (r)	Sep 2003 (b)	Sep 2004 (p)	Aug 2004 (r)	Sep 2003 (b)
NORTHWEST	48,387	49,129	48,120	46,668	47,406	46,293	1,719	1,723	1,827	3.6	3.5	3.8
Big Horn	5,977	5,880	5,809	5,739	5,645	5,588	238	235	221	4.0	4.0	3.8
Fremont	18,849	18,517	18,461	18,031	17,686	17,581	818	831	880	4.3	4.5	4.8
Hot Springs	2,187	2,217	2,167	2,142	2,171	2,110	45	46	57	2.1	2.1	2.6
Park	16,849	17,949	17,116	16,368	17,477	16,583	481	472	533	2.9	2.6	3.1
Washakie	4,525	4,566	4,567	4,388	4,427	4,431	137	139	136	3.0	3.0	3.0
NORTHEAST	48,722	49,228	47,812	47,432	47,984	46,216	1,290	1,244	1,596	2.6	2.5	3.3
Campbell	23,085	23,544	22,580	22,417	22,861	21,784	668	683	796	2.9	2.9	3.5
Crook	3,172	3,188	3,077	3,069	3,098	2,983	103	90	94	3.2	2.8	3.1
Johnson	4,291	4,381	4,277	4,235	4,335	4,178	56	46	99	1.3	1.0	2.3
Sheridan	14,929	14,952	14,698	14,549	14,593	14,190	380	359	508	2.5	2.4	3.5
Weston	3,245	3,163	3,180	3,162	3,097	3,081	83	66	99	2.6	2.1	3.1
SOUTHWEST	57,694	58,902	58,085	56,002	57,326	55,932	1,692	1,576	2,153	2.9	2.7	3.7
Lincoln	7,925	7,914	8,150	7,649	7,641	7,800	276	273	350	3.5	3.4	4.3
Sublette	4,210	4,317	4,171	4,136	4,239	4,059	74	78	112	1.8	1.8	2.7
Sweetwater	21,089	20,829	20,917	20,482	20,277	20,166	607	552	751	2.9	2.7	3.6
Teton	12,828	14,365	13,096	12,547	14,108	12,759	281	257	337	2.2	1.8	2.6
Uinta	11,642	11,477	11,751	11,188	11,061	11,148	454	416	603	3.9	3.6	5.1
SOUTHEAST	74,669	74,658	74,989	72,012	72,235	72,544	2,657	2,423	2,445	3.6	3.2	3.3
Albany	18,995	18,497	19,250	18,671	18,182	18,895	324	315	355	1.7	1.7	1.8
Goshen	6,174	6,190	6,103	5,969	6,003	5,907	205	187	196	3.3	3.0	3.2
Laramie	43,802	44,291	43,971	41,876	42,565	42,265	1,926	1,726	1,706	4.4	3.9	3.9
Niobrara	1,229	1,255	1,196	1,209	1,235	1,174	20	20	22	1.6	1.6	1.8
Platte	4,469	4,425	4,469	4,287	4,250	4,303	182	175	166	4.1	4.0	3.7
CENTRAL	51,159	51,641	51,298	49,370	49,995	49,106	1,789	1,646	2,192	3.5	3.2	4.3
Carbon	8,133	8,156	8,296	7,877	7,913	7,934	256	243	362	3.1	3.0	4.4
Converse	6,551	6,651	6,567	6,317	6,410	6,324	234	241	243	3.6	3.6	3.7
Natrona	36,475	36,834	36,435	35,176	35,672	34,848	1,299	1,162	1,587	3.6	3.2	4.4
STATEWIDE	280,632	283,557	280,305	271,484	274,945	270,092	9,148	8,612	10,213	3.3	3.0	3.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.9	3.7	4.3
U.S.....										5.1	5.4	5.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.4	5.4	6.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 10/04.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

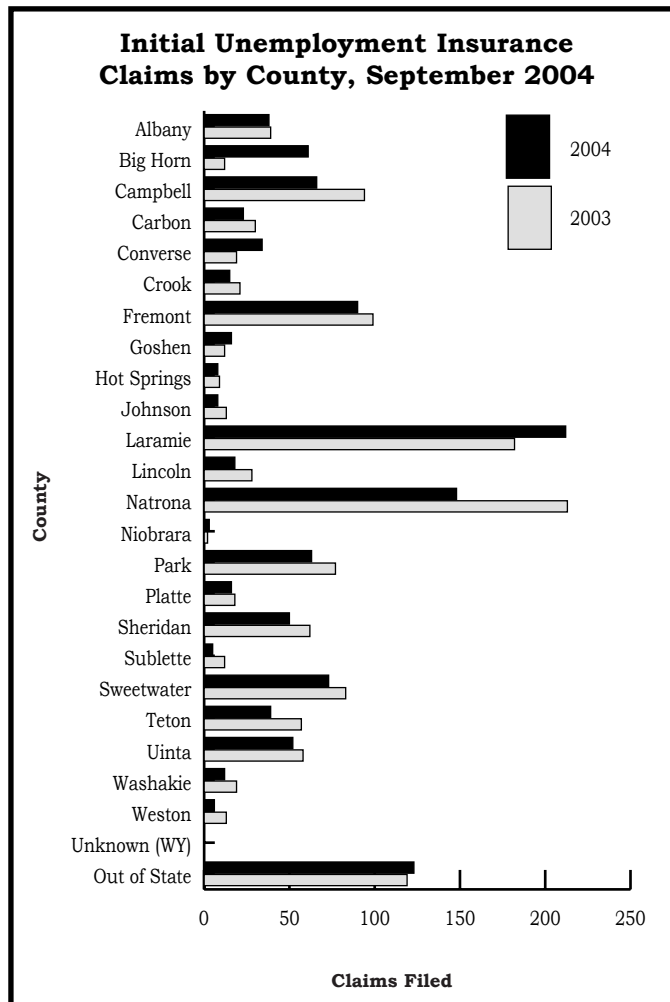
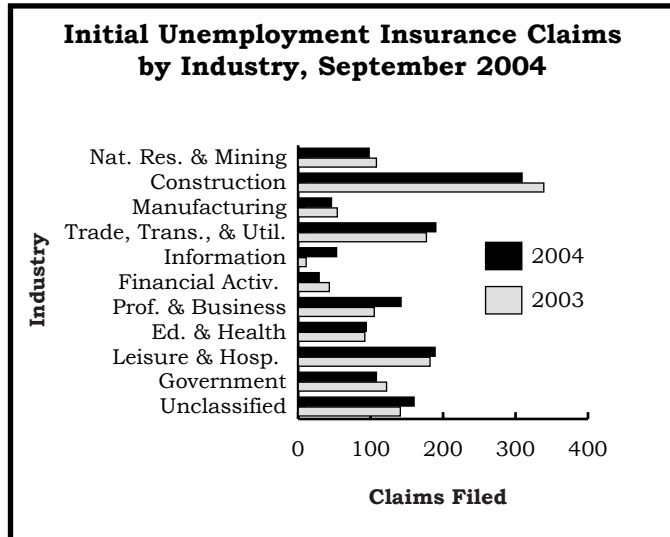
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.9 to 4.9 percent would contain the actual rate.

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

September 2004 marked the first over-the-year increase in initial claims since May 2003. However, over-the-year claims declined in the Goods Producing sector.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Sep04	Aug04	Sep03	Sep04
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,418	1,176	1,370	20.6 3.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	453	396	501	14.4 -9.6
Natural Resources and Mining	98	119	108	-17.6 -9.3
Mining	84	77	97	9.1 -13.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	7	6	26	16.7 -73.1
Construction	309	241	339	28.2 -8.8
Manufacturing	46	36	54	27.8 -14.8
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	725	566	634	28.1 14.4
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	190	165	177	15.2 7.3
Wholesale Trade	26	37	30	-29.7 -13.3
Retail Trade	110	86	94	27.9 17.0
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	54	42	53	28.6 1.9
Information	53	19	11	178.9 381.8
Financial Activities	29	36	43	-19.4 -32.6
Professional & Business Serv.	142	123	105	15.4 35.2
Educational & Health Services	94	93	92	1.1 2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	189	98	182	92.9 3.8
Other Services	28	32	24	-12.5 16.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	108	112	122	-3.6 -11.5
Federal Government	37	40	48	-7.5 -22.9
State Government	20	19	17	5.3 17.6
Local Government	51	53	57	-3.8 -10.5
Local Education	11	14	13	-21.4 -15.4
UNCLASSIFIED	132	102	113	29.4 16.8

LARAMIE COUNTY

	2004	2003	2004	2003
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	271	210	208	29.0 30.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	72	38	57	89.5 26.3
Construction	61	32	45	90.6 35.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	167	132	111	26.5 50.5
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	38	39	33	-2.6 15.2
Financial Activities	5	11	4	-54.5 25.0
Professional & Business Serv.	42	37	15	13.5 180.0
Educational & Health Services	21	23	23	-8.7 -8.7
Leisure & Hospitality	14	15	27	-6.7 -48.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21	32	30	-34.4 -30.0
UNCLASSIFIED	11	8	10	37.5 10.0

NATRONA COUNTY

	2004	2003	2004	2003
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	187	146	215	28.1 -13.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	54	52	79	3.8 -31.6
Construction	37	32	50	15.6 -26.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	118	84	115	40.5 2.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	30	23	34	30.4 -11.8
Financial Activities	5	7	9	-28.6 -44.4
Professional & Business Serv.	42	18	20	133.3 110.0
Educational & Health Services	20	11	23	81.8 -13.0
Leisure & Hospitality	17	16	23	6.3 -26.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	9	6	9	50.0 0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	6	4	12	50.0 -50.0

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

Continued claims declined both over-the-month and over-the-year, although the over-the-year declines were smaller than in recent months.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Sep04	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
		Aug04	Sep03	Aug04 Sep03	Sep04 Sep03
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	9,777	10,585	10,341	-7.6	-5.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,718	3,239	3,273	-16.1	-17.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,698	2,795	3,004	-3.5	-10.2
Natural Resources and Mining	670	693	659	-3.3	1.7
Mining	488	543	581	-10.1	-16.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	60	86	61	-30.2	-1.6
Construction	1,654	1,648	1,773	0.4	-6.7
Manufacturing	374	454	572	-17.6	-34.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	5,290	5,862	5,281	-9.8	0.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,423	1,492	1,727	-4.6	-17.6
Wholesale Trade	277	253	393	9.5	-29.5
Retail Trade	836	960	975	-12.9	-14.3
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	310	279	359	11.1	-13.6
Information	360	371	206	-3.0	74.8
Financial Activities	333	361	395	-7.8	-15.7
Professional & Business Serv.	1,232	1,190	999	3.5	23.3
Educational & Health Serv.	781	982	778	-20.5	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	871	1,063	900	-18.1	-3.2
Other Services	290	403	276	-28.0	5.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,083	1,176	1,189	-7.9	-8.9
Federal Government	248	241	226	2.9	9.7
State Government	191	194	214	-1.5	-10.7
Local Government	644	741	749	-13.1	-14.0
Local Education	195	252	273	-22.6	-28.6
UNCLASSIFIED	706	752	867	-6.1	-18.6

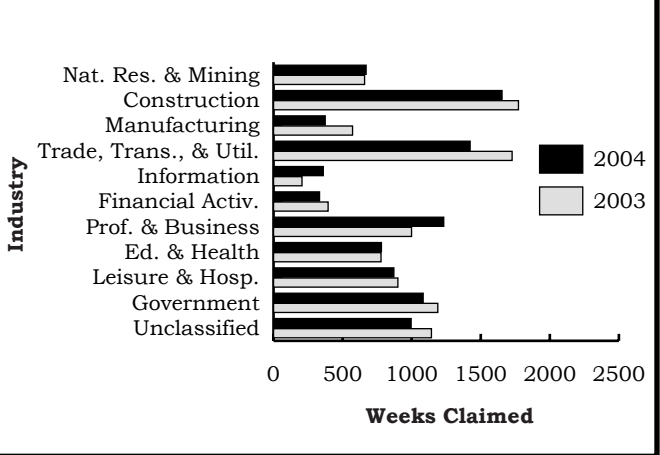
LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,142	2,258	1,578	-5.1	35.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	581	672	487	-13.5	19.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	330	380	278	-13.2	18.7
Construction	236	244	226	-3.3	4.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,524	1,567	986	-2.7	54.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	346	315	320	9.8	8.1
Financial Activities	93	108	72	-13.9	29.2
Professional & Business Serv.	582	566	227	2.8	156.4
Educational & Health Services	148	114	112	29.8	32.1
Leisure & Hospitality	106	150	151	-29.3	-29.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	228	220	248	3.6	-8.1
UNCLASSIFIED	60	91	66	-34.1	-9.1

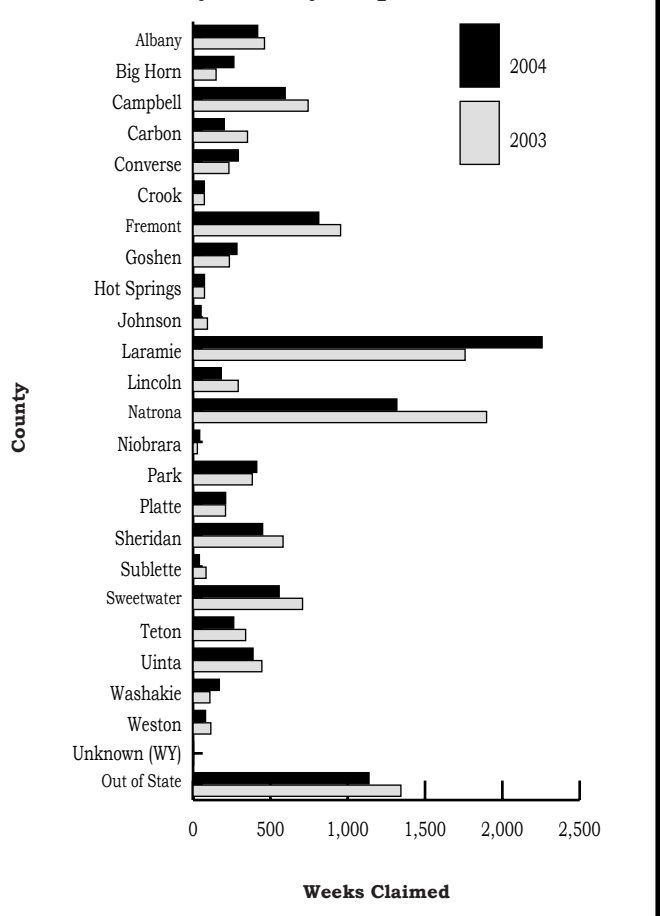
NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,170	1,318	1,715	-11.2	-31.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	344	402	547	-14.4	-37.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	338	364	550	-7.1	-38.5
Construction	209	210	298	-0.5	-29.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	762	859	997	-11.3	-23.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	220	221	290	-0.5	-24.1
Financial Activities	70	54	86	29.6	-18.6
Professional & Business Serv.	169	134	168	26.1	0.6
Educational & Health Services	141	222	174	-36.5	-19.0
Leisure & Hospitality	97	157	170	-38.2	-42.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	44	56	116	-21.4	-62.1
UNCLASSIFIED	26	39	52	-33.3	-50.0

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2004



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2004



Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
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