

TRENDS

Wyoming's Seasonal Firms Face Challenge in Finding Workers

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

Among 15,245 Wyoming firms in the study, 8.8% (1,342 firms) were identified as having high seasonal labor demand, with at least a 50% labor demand reduction during their off-seasons. Based on their experience in 2005, these firms need about 12,659 seasonal workers annually. Finding and retaining labor for seasonal business needs is a challenge for Wyoming employers.

Because of current energy development and economic expansion, many Wyoming employers have found it increasingly difficult to find workers to meet their business needs. Research indicates that an increasing number of nonresident workers have come to the state to fill job openings the past several years (Jones, 2006). Despite the influx of nonresident workers, the labor shortage situation remains. Many firms have slowed their expansions and some have cut business hours (Casper Star-Tribune, 2006) because they were unable to fully staff their operations. Recruiting and retaining part-time, temporary, or seasonal

workers has become a greater challenge to employers and local economic development agencies.

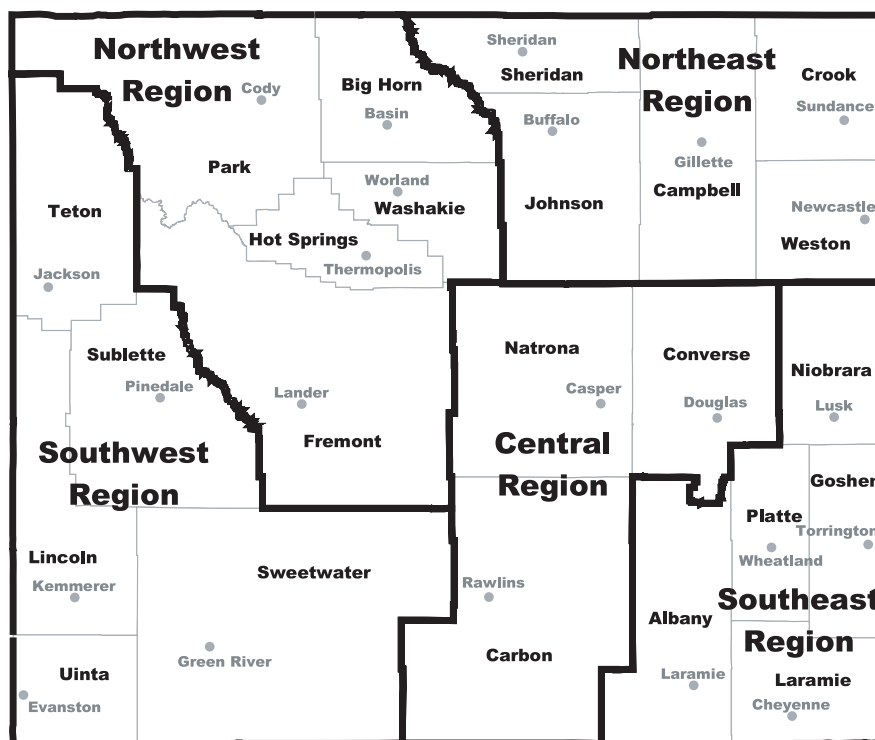
Understanding the labor demand situation among Wyoming firms would be helpful in the effort to maintain a well-functioning labor market. It also may help economic developers better understand which types of firms may be desirable for local economic goals and conditions. In this article we examine firms and variations in the seasonal demand for labor.

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The percentage of workers in Wyoming who are members of unions increased from 7.9% of the total workforce in 2005 to 8.3% in 2006, an increase of roughly 1,500 workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics....page 8
- Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 3.3% in August to 3.6% in September (not a statistically significant change). It remained below its September 2005 level of 3.9% and the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.6%. The state's labor force expanded by 6,854 or 2.4% from September 2005....page 8

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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Methodology

Seasonality refers to the changing pattern of employment repeated every year. Nine quarters of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages files, from third quarter 2003 (2003Q3) to third quarter 2005 (2005Q3), were combined to build a longitudinal study database. In order to be considered a firm with seasonal labor demand variation, the firm must have had the same seasonal behavior for two consecutive years. Additionally, our study only considered firms with at least a 50% labor demand reduction in off seasons.

Peak seasonal employment is the average of the two consecutive quarters with the highest employment during the year. Firms in different industries may exhibit completely different peak seasonal employment patterns during the year. For example, the second and third quarters of the year (the warmer months) may be the peak employment period for construction firms, but would be the off-season for ski resorts.

We defined two types of seasonal patterns for this study: Type One and Type Two. Type One seasonal patterns were defined as patterns exhibited by those firms that hired employees only for the same one or two quarters each year and had zero employment during the rest of the year. These firms depended entirely on seasonal workers during their peak seasons. Type Two seasonal patterns identified firms that had employment all year long but retained 50% or less of their

peak-season employment levels for at least two quarters during the year. These firms relied heavily, but not entirely, on seasonal workers. Type One and Type Two seasonal patterns are collectively referred to as high seasonal labor demand variation.

Of the 15,245 Wyoming firms included in the study, 1,342 (8.8%) were determined to have high seasonal labor demand. Among these, 338 Type One firms (25.1%) essentially closed with zero employment during their off-seasons, while 1,004 Type Two firms reduced their employment levels by 50% or more.

A total of 20,064 firms were initially included in our study. We excluded all firms with zero employment for any four consecutive quarters during the selected nine quarters. Firms with public (i.e., government) ownership were also excluded. The final study was based on 15,245 active, privately owned firms.

To determine which jobs were seasonal, we subtracted the total jobs in the off season from the total jobs in the peak season for each firm. In reality, the number of seasonal jobs is not exactly the same as seasonal job holders because one job could be held by more than one person due to turnover, and one person also could hold multiple jobs. However, in order to provide an estimate, we assumed one job per person.

Results and Discussion:

Of the 15,245 Wyoming firms included in the study, 1,342 (8.8%) were determined to have high seasonal labor demand. Among these, 338 Type One firms (25.1%) essentially closed with zero employment during their off-seasons, while 1,004 Type Two firms reduced their employment levels by 50% or more. Figure 1 shows the proportion of firms with Type One and Type Two seasonal labor demand

compared to firms that do not have high seasonal labor demand.

Among industries, nearly half (45.1%) of the firms in Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation had high seasonal labor demand (see Figure 2, page 5). Private Educational Services had the second highest percentage (18.9%), followed by Administrative & Waste Services (16.9%). Industries with the least dependence on seasonal workers were Health Care & Social Assistance and Finance & Insurance, with only 2.3% and 3.1% of their respective industry totals.

Table 1 (see page 6) shows that of the 1,342 firms with high seasonal labor demand, the Construction industry had the most firms (301 firms; 22.4%). Accommodation & Food Services had the second largest share with 190 firms (14.2%), followed by Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation with 151 firms (11.3%). Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation had the most firms (60) with Type One seasonal patterns (closed during the off-season). Both Construction and Accommodation & Food Services followed with 46 Type One firms. The Construction industry had the most Type Two firms (255), followed by Accommodation & Food Services (144).

The 1,342 firms with high seasonal labor demand in 2005 provided an average of nine

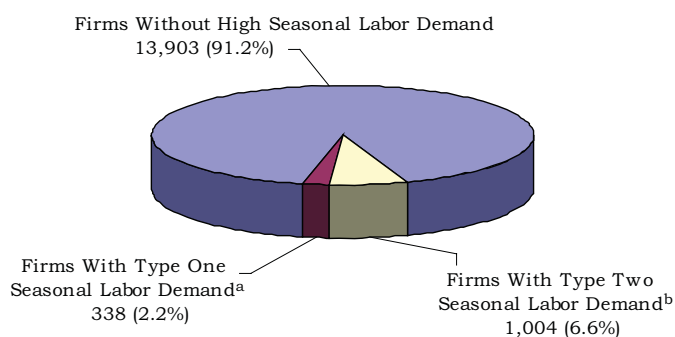
jobs per firm (see Table 2, page 7).

Accommodation & Food Services had the most seasonal employment, with 5,007 jobs. Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation and

Construction followed with 1,764 and 1,601 jobs, respectively. Two other industries with large seasonal employment were Administrative & Waste Services (1,141 jobs) and Retail Trade (1,139 jobs).

An important issue for firms with high seasonal labor demand is how to recruit and

Figure 1: Distribution of Wyoming Firms by Seasonal Labor Demand, Third Quarter 2003 to Third Quarter 2005

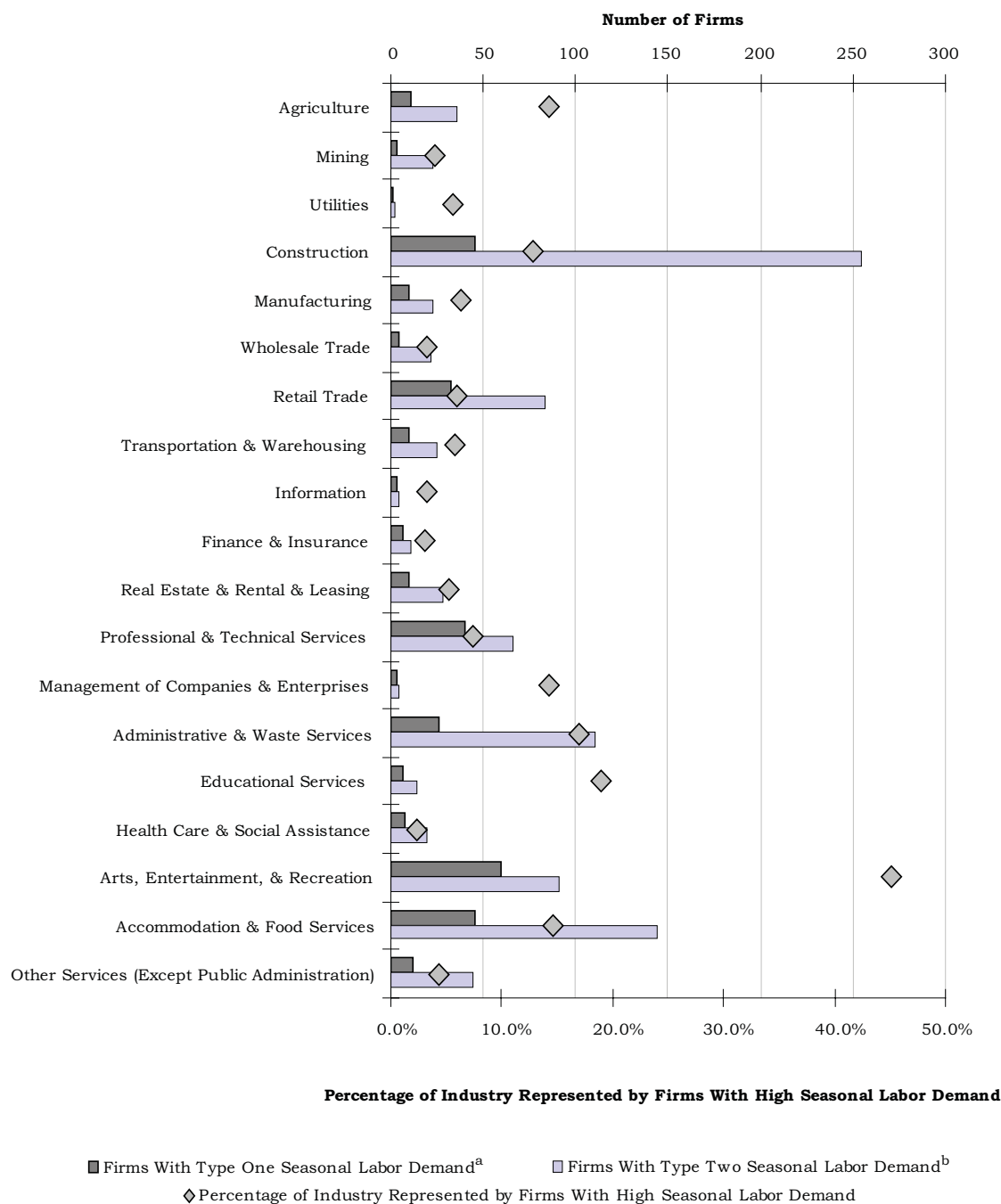


^aType One Seasonal Labor Demand refers to those firms that hired employees only for the same one or two quarters each year and had zero employment during the rest of the year.

^bType Two Seasonal Labor Demand refers to firms that had employment all year long but retained 50% or less of their peak-season employment levels for at least two quarters during the year.

retain workers for the next season, especially skilled workers. Potential recruiting resources for seasonal jobs may include students seeking summer or winter jobs, retired persons wanting part-time work or who want to work only part of the year, seasonal workers from other industries during their off-seasons, and workers from other states. However, some seasonal jobs need special skills or experience and firms depend on these trained workers to return the next season. There are several ways firms can improve the chance that seasonal workers will return to work for them, including providing incentives to encourage return (e.g., higher salary, bonus, promotion, financial assistance during the off-season), assisting employees in finding opposite-season work, or helping employees find

(Text continued on page 6)

Figure 2: Seasonal Labor Demand of Wyoming Firms by Industry, Third Quarter 2003 to Third Quarter 2005

^aType One Seasonal Labor Demand: Firms that hired employees only for the same one or two quarters each year and with zero employment during the rest of the year.

^bType Two Seasonal Labor Demand: Firms with employment all year long but retaining 50% or less of their peak-season employment levels for at least two quarters during the year.

Table 1: Percentage of Private Sector Wyoming Firms with High Seasonal Labor Demand Variation by Industry, Third Quarter 2003 to Third Quarter 2005

Industry	Total Firms in Industry	Firms with High Seasonal Labor Demand Variation			
		Firms With Type One Seasonal Labor Demand ^a	Firms With Type Two Seasonal Labor Demand ^b	Total Firms With High Seasonal Labor Demand	Percent of Firms in Industry With Seasonal Labor Demand
Agriculture	330	11	36	47	14.2%
Mining	643	3	23	26	4.0%
Utilities	54	1	2	3	5.6%
Construction	2,349	46	255	301	12.8%
Manufacturing	525	10	23	33	6.3%
Wholesale Trade	792	4	22	26	3.3%
Retail Trade	1,946	32	83	115	5.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	604	10	25	35	5.8%
Information	216	3	4	7	3.2%
Finance & Insurance	574	7	11	18	3.1%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	725	10	28	38	5.2%
Professional & Technical Services	1,433	40	66	106	7.4%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	49	3	4	7	14.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	803	26	110	136	16.9%
Educational Services	106	6	14	20	18.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,150	8	19	27	2.3%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	335	60	91	151	45.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,307	46	144	190	14.5%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,304	12	44	56	4.3%
Total	15,245	338	1,004	1,342	8.8%

^aType One Seasonal Labor Demand refers to those firms that hired employees only for the same one or two quarters each year and with zero employment during the rest of the year.

^bType Two Seasonal Labor Demand refers to firms with employment all year long but retaining 50% or less of their peak-season employment levels for at least two quarters during the year.

(Text continued from page 4)

social or government programs to acquire income assistance during their off-seasons. Unemployment Insurance (UI) is one program that has played a role in retaining seasonal workers in local communities to carry them over to the next season.

Using the UI claims file, we found that 1,369 individuals who lost jobs and applied for UI benefits (UI initial claimants) came from the 1,342 firms with high seasonal labor demand in 2005. This accounts for about 11% of the related seasonal jobs. We refer to this as the UI claims rate (number of initial claims or claimants divided by

number of related seasonal jobs or workers). Table 2 shows that the UI claims rate for Manufacturing was the highest among industries (31.0 %). Nearly one-third of the seasonal workers in this industry applied for UI during the off-season in 2005. The UI claims rate was 15.5% in Construction and 13.3% in Administrative & Waste Services. Relative to the total number of seasonal jobs, the claims rates appear to be low. Possible reasons for the low rate may be that some unemployed seasonal workers found other jobs (temporary, seasonal, or permanent); returned to school; or left the work force for a variety of reasons. A study from 2000 found that “a large proportion (71.3%) of seasonal claimants returned to work in the

same industry and over half (51.4%) were hired back by the same employers. Claimants who were re-employed in the same industry or by the same employer had a higher probability of receiving a larger gain in their wages than those who were hired in different industries or by different employers” (Wen, 2000).

Summary

Among the 15,245 Wyoming firms in the study, 8.8% (1,342) were identified as having high seasonal labor demand. Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation had the highest percentage (45.1%) of firms in this category. Among these firms, approximately 12,659 seasonal workers annually were needed to staff firms during their peak seasons. More than one-third of all jobs were needed in Accommodation & Food Services. Recruiting and retaining

seasonal workers is a challenge, especially in a labor market with low unemployment.

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Table 2: Industry Distribution of Wyoming Private Sector Firms With High Seasonal Labor Demand Variation, Related Seasonal Jobs, Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims, Average Seasonal Jobs Per Firm, and Related UI Claims Rate

Industry	Number of Firms	Related Seasonal Jobs ^a in 2005	UI Initial Claims in 2005	Average Seasonal Jobs Per Firm	UI Claims Rate ^b
Agriculture	47	326	15	7	4.6%
Mining	26	123	10	5	8.1%
Utilities	3	7		2	0.0%
Construction	301	1,601	248	5	15.5%
Manufacturing	33	232	72	7	31.0%
Wholesale Trade	26	81	4	3	4.9%
Retail Trade	115	1,139	78	10	6.8%
Transportation & Warehousing	35	96	5	3	5.2%
Information	7	13		2	0.0%
Finance & Insurance	18	27	2	2	7.4%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	38	122	12	3	9.8%
Professional & Technical Services	106	391	16	4	4.1%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7	33	4	5	12.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	136	1,141	152	8	13.3%
Educational Services	20	252	5	13	2.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	27	41		2	0.0%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	151	1,764	98	12	5.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	190	5,007	645	26	12.9%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	56	263	3	5	1.1%
Total	1,342	12,659	1,369	9	10.8%

^aSeasonal Jobs: difference between the number of jobs in peak season and off-season.

^bUI Claims Rate: number of initial claims divided by related seasonal jobs.

Union Membership in Wyoming Rises in 2006

The percentage of workers in Wyoming who are members of unions increased from 7.9% of the total workforce in 2005 to 8.3% in 2006, an increase of roughly 1,500 workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Meanwhile, the percentage of people represented by unions in the state rose from

9.5% to 10.0% of the total workforce. These are workers who report no union affiliation, but whose jobs are covered by union or association contracts. Nationally, union membership declined from 12.5% in 2005 to 12.0% in 2006. The BLS report can be accessed online at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm>

Wyoming Unemployment Increases to 3.6% in September 2006

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 3.3% in August to 3.6% in September (not a statistically significant change). It remained below its September 2005 level of 3.9% and the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.6%. The state's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed persons) expanded by 6,854 or 2.4% from September 2005. The number of new jobs in Wyoming continued to increase at a rapid pace (up 11,000 jobs or 4.1% from September 2005).

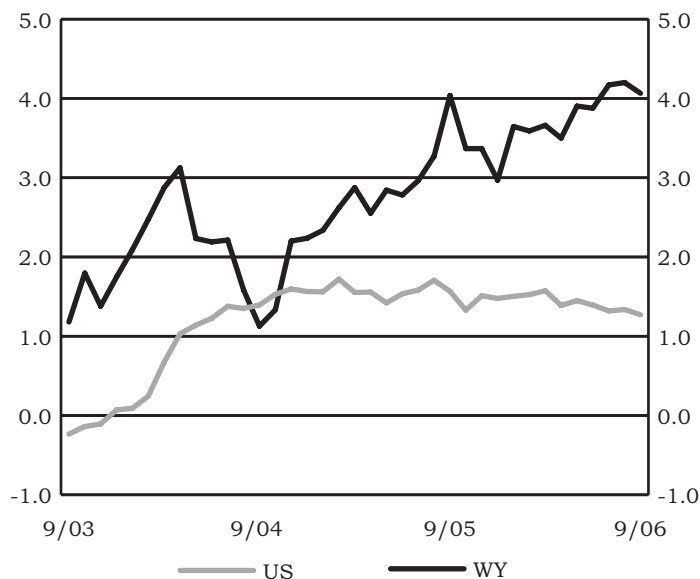
From August to September employment fell by 1,200 jobs or 0.4%. This level of decrease is consistent with seasonal patterns and expected in September. Seasonal job losses were seen in Retail Trade (-600 jobs or -1.9%), Financial Activities (-300 jobs or -2.6%), Professional & Business Services (-700 jobs or -3.9%), and Leisure & Hospitality (-2,900 jobs or -7.6%). These job losses were partially offset by an increase in Government employment (3,800 jobs or 6.2%) as public schools reopened.

From September 2005 to September

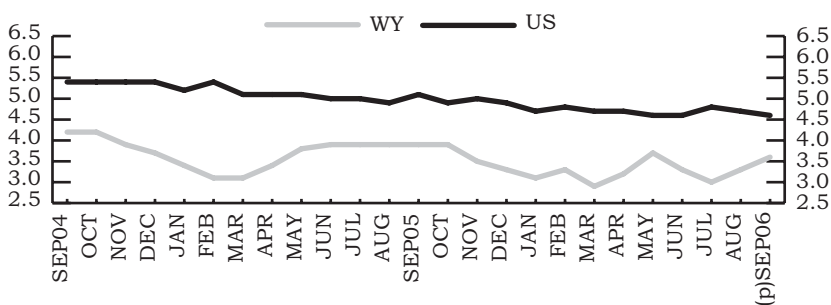
2006, Wyoming gained 11,000 jobs (4.1%). Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) grew by 3,300 jobs or 14.0% and Construction grew by 2,500 jobs or 11.1%. Large job gains were also seen in Manufacturing (600 jobs or 6.1%), Wholesale Trade (700 jobs or 8.9%), Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities (800 jobs or 6.3%), Professional & Business Services (700 jobs or 4.3%) and Other Services (700 jobs or 7.1%). Other Services includes repair and maintenance services, a particularly fast-growing sector. The only major sector where employment fell from September 2005 was Information (-100 jobs or -2.3%) which includes newspapers, broadcasting, and telephone companies.

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from August to September. The largest increases were in Hot Springs County (up from 2.5% to 3.2%) and Uinta County (up from 2.5% to 3.1%). Platte County posted the highest unemployment rate (3.9%) followed by Fremont County (3.8%). The lowest unemployment rate was found in Sublette County (1.5%).

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

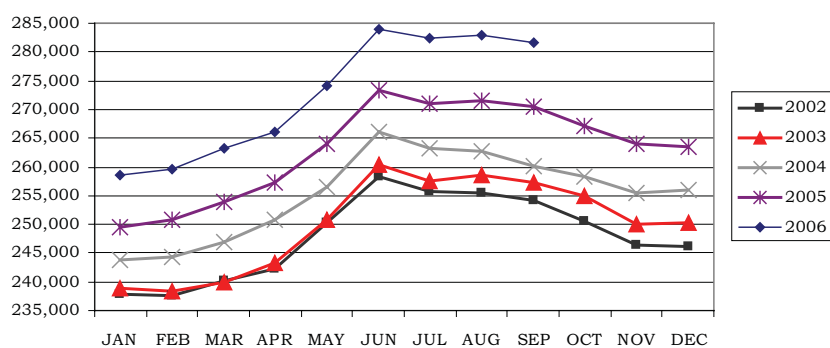


**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate
(Percent)**



(p) Preliminary.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



**State Unemployment Rates
September 2006
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.8
Mississippi	7.2
Michigan	7.1
Alaska	6.6
South Carolina	6.4
District of Columbia	5.9
Oregon	5.4
West Virginia	5.4
Kentucky	5.3
Ohio	5.3
Washington	5.3
Arkansas	5.2
New Jersey	5.2
Rhode Island	5.2
Indiana	5.1
Massachusetts	5.1
Missouri	5.0
North Carolina	4.9
California	4.8
Texas	4.8
Connecticut	4.7
Maine	4.7
Wisconsin	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.6
Tennessee	4.6
United States	4.6
Georgia	4.5
Colorado	4.4
Illinois	4.4
New York	4.4
Kansas	4.3
New Mexico	4.2
Maryland	4.0
Nevada	4.0
Oklahoma	4.0
Minnesota	3.8
Arizona	3.7
Delaware	3.7
Louisiana	3.7
Vermont	3.7
Montana	3.6
Wyoming	3.6
Iowa	3.4
Alabama	3.3
Idaho	3.3
Florida	3.2
New Hampshire	3.2
South Dakota	3.2
Virginia	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
North Dakota	3.1
Utah	2.8
Hawaii	2.5

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The number of new jobs in Wyoming continued to increase at a rapid pace (up 11,000 jobs or 4.1% from September 2005).

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment			LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
			Aug06 Sep05						Aug06 Sep05		
	Sep06(p)	Aug06(r)	Sep05	Sep06	Sep06		Sep06(p)	Aug06(r)	Sep05	Sep06	Sep06
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	281.6	282.8	270.6	-0.4	4.1	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	43.3	43.7	42.0	-0.9	3.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	216.4	221.4	205.5	-2.3	5.3	TOTAL PRIVATE	30.5	31.1	29.2	-1.9	4.5
GOODS PRODUCING	62.2	62.3	55.8	-0.2	11.5	GOODS PRODUCING	5.0	5.2	4.6	-3.8	8.7
Natural Resources & Mining	26.8	26.9	23.5	-0.4	14.0	Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	3.3	3.5	3.0	-5.7	10.0
Mining	26.7	26.8	23.5	-0.4	13.6	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.2	4.3	3.9	-2.3	7.7						
Mining Except Oil & Gas	8.7	8.7	7.8	0.0	11.5	SERVICE PROVIDING	38.3	38.5	37.4	-0.5	2.4
Coal Mining	5.9	6.0	5.1	-1.7	15.7	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	9.3	9.4	8.9	-1.1	4.5
Support Activities for Mining	13.8	13.8	11.8	0.0	16.9	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	9.3	9.2	8.1	1.1	14.8	Retail Trade	5.8	5.9	5.6	-1.7	3.6
Construction	25.0	25.2	22.5	-0.8	11.1	Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.0	8.0
Construction of Buildings	5.1	5.3	4.6	-3.8	10.9	Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	7.9	7.8	6.8	1.3	16.2	Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	12.0	12.1	11.1	-0.8	8.1	Professional & Business Services	3.5	3.6	3.3	-2.8	6.1
Manufacturing	10.4	10.2	9.8	2.0	6.1	Educational & Health Services	3.5	3.5	3.3	0.0	6.1
Durable Goods	5.4	5.5	5.2	-1.8	3.8	Leisure & Hospitality	4.5	4.7	4.5	-4.3	0.0
Non-Durable Goods	5.0	4.7	4.6	6.4	8.7	Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
SERVICE PROVIDING	219.4	220.5	214.8	-0.5	2.1	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.8	12.6	12.8	1.6	0.0
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	53.7	54.3	51.7	-1.1	3.9	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	8.6	8.4	7.9	2.4	8.9	State Government	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0
Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable	5.3	5.2	4.8	1.9	10.4	Local Government	6.4	6.1	6.4	4.9	0.0
Retail Trade	31.6	32.2	31.1	-1.9	1.6	Local Education	3.3	2.8	3.3	17.9	0.0
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.6	4.6	4.4	0.0	4.5						
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.9	2.9	2.7	0.0	7.4	NATRONA COUNTY					
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.7	4.7	-2.1	-2.1	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	39.1	38.8	37.5	0.8	4.3
Grocery Stores	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0						
Gasoline Stations	4.1	4.3	4.1	-4.7	0.0	TOTAL PRIVATE	33.7	33.7	32.0	0.0	5.3
General Merchandise Stores	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	GOODS PRODUCING	9.1	9.1	8.0	0.0	13.8
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0	Natural Resources & Mining	4.4	4.4	3.7	0.0	18.9
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	13.5	13.7	12.7	-1.5	6.3	Construction	2.8	2.8	2.5	0.0	12.0
Utilities	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Transportation & Warehousing	11.2	11.4	10.4	-1.8	7.7						
Truck Transportation	4.1	4.1	3.7	0.0	10.8	SERVICE PROVIDING	30.0	29.7	29.5	1.0	1.7
Information	4.2	4.3	4.3	-2.3	-2.3	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.7	8.6	8.5	1.2	2.4
Financial Activities	11.1	11.4	10.9	-2.6	1.8	Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0
Finance & Insurance	6.9	7.0	6.8	-1.4	1.5	Retail Trade	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4.2	4.4	4.1	-4.5	2.4	Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Professional & Business Services	17.1	17.8	16.4	-3.9	4.3	Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	8.6	8.9	8.2	-3.4	4.9	Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.5	2.7	2.4	-7.4	4.2	Professional & Business Services	3.0	3.1	3.0	-3.2	0.0
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	Educational & Health Services	4.8	4.7	4.6	2.1	4.3
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.7	8.1	7.4	-4.9	4.1	Leisure & Hospitality	3.7	3.8	3.7	-2.6	0.0
Educational & Health Services	22.5	22.7	21.9	-0.9	2.7	Other Services	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9
Educational	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0	9.5						
Health Care & Social Assistance	20.2	20.4	19.8	-1.0	2.0	TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.4	5.1	5.5	5.9	-1.8
Ambulatory Health Care	7.7	7.8	7.4	-1.3	4.1	Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3	State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Hospitals	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.4	0.0	Local Government	4.0	3.7	4.1	8.1	-2.4
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3	Local Education	2.5	2.2	2.7	13.6	-7.4
Social Assistance	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0						
Leisure & Hospitality	35.1	38.0	34.7	-7.6	1.2	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, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.					
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	3.2	3.6	3.1	-11.1	3.2	(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.					
Accommodation & Food Services	31.9	34.4	31.6	-7.3	0.9						
Accommodation	12.7	14.4	12.4	-11.8	2.4						
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	19.2	20.0	19.2	-4.0	0.0						
Other Services	10.5	10.6	9.8	-0.9	7.1						
Repair & Maintenance	3.6	3.5	3.1	2.9	16.1						
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.2	61.4	65.1	6.2	0.2						
Federal Government	7.6	7.9	7.8	-3.8	-2.6						
State Government	15.2	14.7	15.3	3.4	-0.7						
State Govt. Education	6.1	5.3	6.2	15.1	-1.6						
Local Government	42.4	38.8	42.0	9.3	1.0						
Local Govt. Education	21.3	16.5	21.2	29.1	0.5						
Hospitals	6.0	6.0	5.9	0.0	1.7						

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, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		Percent Change Total Employment		
	Sep06	Aug06	Sep05	Sep06	Sep06
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.9	26.9	24.5	0.0	9.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.1	23.3	20.7	-0.9	11.6
GOODS PRODUCING	11.8	11.8	10.3	0.0	14.6
Natural Resources & Mining	8.2	8.2	7.0	0.0	17.1
Construction	3.0	3.0	2.7	0.0	11.1
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.1	15.1	14.2	0.0	6.3
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.9	5.0	4.6	-2.0	6.5
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Professional & Bus. Services	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.1	1.8	-4.8	11.1
Other Services	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.8	3.6	3.8	5.6	0.0
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.2	25.0	23.0	0.8	9.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.0	21.1	18.8	-0.5	11.7
GOODS PRODUCING	9.7	9.5	8.1	2.1	19.8
Natural Resources & Mining	5.8	5.7	4.9	1.8	18.4
Construction	2.7	2.5	2.0	8.0	35.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.5	15.5	14.9	0.0	4.0
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.9	5.0	4.7	-2.0	4.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.5	2.6	2.3	-3.8	8.7
Other Services	0.8	0.9	0.7	-11.1	14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.2	3.9	4.2	7.7	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	19.4	21.2	18.8	-8.5	3.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.1	18.9	16.6	-9.5	3.0
GOODS PRODUCING	2.9	2.9	2.5	0.0	16.0
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.7	2.7	2.3	0.0	17.4
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.5	18.3	16.3	-9.8	1.2
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.5	2.7	2.5	-7.4	0.0
Information	0.2	0.3	0.2	-33.3	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Professional & Bus. Services	1.8	1.9	1.7	-5.3	5.9
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	1.0	0.9	-10.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7.3	8.5	7.4	-14.1	-1.4
Other Services	0.5	0.6	0.5	-16.7	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5

State Unemployment Rates September 2006 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.9
Mississippi	6.8
Michigan	6.7
South Carolina	6.4
District of Columbia	6.0
Alaska	5.9
Massachusetts	5.0
Ohio	5.0
New Jersey	4.9
Arkansas	4.8
Kentucky	4.8
Missouri	4.8
Oregon	4.8
Washington	4.8
Indiana	4.7
Texas	4.7
West Virginia	4.7
California	4.6
Georgia	4.6
Connecticut	4.5
North Carolina	4.5
Rhode Island	4.5
United States	4.4
Tennessee	4.3
Colorado	4.2
New York	4.2
Pennsylvania	4.2
Illinois	4.1
Kansas	4.1
Maine	4.1
New Mexico	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
Nevada	4.0
Arizona	3.9
Oklahoma	3.8
Delaware	3.7
Louisiana	3.7
Maryland	3.7
Minnesota	3.6
Florida	3.4
Alabama	3.3
Vermont	3.3
Iowa	3.1
Virginia	3.1
New Hampshire	3.0
Wyoming	2.9
Montana	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
South Dakota	2.8
Idaho	2.7
Hawaii	2.6
Utah	2.6
North Dakota	2.4

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The Baker Hughes Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming increased by 28.2% from September 2005 to September 2006.

	Sept 2006 (p)	Aug 2006 (r)	Sept 2005 (b)	Percent Change Month	Change Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	292,574	294,559	285,720	-0.7	2.4
Unemployed	8,604	7,537	9,209	14.2	-6.6
Employed	283,970	287,022	276,511	-1.1	2.7
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	2.9%/3.6%	2.6%/3.3%	3.2%/3.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.4%/4.6%	4.6%/4.7%	4.8%/5.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,792,000	7,233,000	7,705,000	7.7	1.1
As a percent of all workers	5.4%	5.0%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	325,000	448,000	362,000	-27.5	-10.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	3,735,000	4,104,000	4,230,000	-9.0	-11.7
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,188.33	\$1,187.64	\$1,101.87	0.1	7.8
Average Weekly Hours	49.7	49.3	47.7	0.8	4.2
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$942.94	\$940.35	\$904.75	0.3	4.2
Average Weekly Hours	46.2	46.3	47.0	-0.2	-1.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$709.59	\$733.18	\$680.69	-3.2	4.2
Average Weekly Hours	39.4	40.8	39.9	-3.4	-1.3
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$698.83	\$691.75	\$684.73	1.0	2.1
Average Weekly Hours	41.4	41.2	41.1	0.5	0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	4,945	7,304	5,909	-32.3	-16.3
Benefits Paid	\$1,272,548	\$1,829,361	\$1,433,282	-30.4	-11.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$257.34	\$250.46	\$242.56	2.7	6.1
State Insured Covered Jobs	257,756	257,793	251,195	0.0	2.6
Insured Unemployment Rate	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items	202.9	203.9	198.8	-0.5	2.1
Food & Beverages	196.7	196.0	191.8	0.4	2.6
Housing	205.0	205.1	197.0	0.0	4.1
Apparel	121.7	116.1	120.5	4.8	1.0
Transportation	180.6	188.5	186.5	-4.2	-3.2
Medical Care	338.3	337.7	324.6	0.2	4.2
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	111.1	111.3	109.7	-0.2	1.3
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	118.4	117.5	115.3	0.8	2.7
Other Goods & Services	323.3	321.7	315.0	0.5	2.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	165.4	167.9	162.2	-1.5	2.0
Wyoming Building Permits					
(New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	297	291	317	2.1	-6.3
Valuation	\$56,506,000	\$55,620,000	\$54,173,000	1.6	4.3
Single Family Homes	252	263	269	-4.2	-6.3
Valuation	\$52,634,000	\$53,112,000	\$50,866,000	-0.9	3.5
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	109	108	85	0.9	28.2

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Roy Azar, Economist

Platte County posted the highest unemployment rate (3.9%) followed by Fremont County (3.8%).

REGION County	<u>Labor Force</u>			<u>Employed</u>			<u>Unemployed</u>			<u>Unemployment Rates</u>		
	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep
	2006 (p)	2006 (p)	2005 (b)	2006 (p)	2006 (p)	2005 (b)	2006 (p)	2006 (p)	2005 (b)	2006 (p)	2006 (p)	2005 (b)
NORTHWEST	45,695	46,430	45,642	44,139	45,019	43,951	1,556	1,411	1,691	3.4	3.0	3.7
Big Horn	5,418	5,476	5,399	5,215	5,297	5,188	203	179	211	3.7	3.3	3.9
Fremont	18,345	18,124	18,255	17,645	17,465	17,502	700	659	753	3.8	3.6	4.1
Hot Springs	2,449	2,522	2,319	2,371	2,459	2,232	78	63	87	3.2	2.5	3.8
Park	15,216	15,995	15,345	14,782	15,613	14,856	434	382	489	2.9	2.4	3.2
Washakie	4,267	4,313	4,324	4,126	4,185	4,173	141	128	151	3.3	3.0	3.5
NORTHEAST	52,604	52,485	49,902	51,337	51,415	48,471	1,267	1,070	1,431	2.4	2.0	2.9
Campbell	25,918	25,727	23,946	25,379	25,285	23,346	539	442	600	2.1	1.7	2.5
Crook	3,582	3,704	3,323	3,497	3,633	3,225	85	71	98	2.4	1.9	2.9
Johnson	4,071	4,152	3,911	3,969	4,062	3,794	102	90	117	2.5	2.2	3.0
Sheridan	15,765	15,738	15,443	15,324	15,359	14,946	441	379	497	2.8	2.4	3.2
Weston	3,268	3,164	3,279	3,168	3,076	3,160	100	88	119	3.1	2.8	3.6
SOUTHWEST	65,811	67,214	62,836	64,178	65,859	61,123	1,633	1,355	1,713	2.5	2.0	2.7
Lincoln	8,412	8,573	8,225	8,164	8,361	7,952	248	212	273	2.9	2.5	3.3
Sublette	6,075	6,154	5,490	5,985	6,081	5,403	90	73	87	1.5	1.2	1.6
Sweetwater	24,377	23,819	22,774	23,763	23,305	22,119	614	514	655	2.5	2.2	2.9
Teton	15,498	17,136	15,174	15,175	16,870	14,826	323	266	348	2.1	1.6	2.3
Uinta	11,449	11,532	11,173	11,091	11,242	10,823	358	290	350	3.1	2.5	3.1
SOUTHEAST	72,846	72,423	72,733	70,358	70,177	70,127	2,488	2,246	2,606	3.4	3.1	3.6
Albany	19,454	18,598	19,565	18,935	18,137	19,043	519	461	522	2.7	2.5	2.7
Goshen	5,840	5,796	5,685	5,633	5,603	5,439	207	193	246	3.5	3.3	4.3
Laramie	42,233	42,802	42,246	40,667	41,387	40,636	1,566	1,415	1,610	3.7	3.3	3.8
Niobrara	1,150	1,143	1,128	1,116	1,113	1,091	34	30	37	3.0	2.6	3.3
Platte	4,169	4,084	4,109	4,007	3,937	3,918	162	147	191	3.9	3.6	4.6
CENTRAL	55,616	56,007	54,605	53,956	54,551	52,840	1,660	1,456	1,765	3.0	2.6	3.2
Carbon	7,976	8,003	7,916	7,715	7,775	7,639	261	228	277	3.3	2.8	3.5
Converse	7,168	7,131	6,855	6,945	6,934	6,624	223	197	231	3.1	2.8	3.4
Natrona	40,472	40,873	39,834	39,296	39,842	38,577	1,176	1,031	1,257	2.9	2.5	3.2
STATEWIDE	292,574	294,559	285,720	283,970	287,022	276,511	8,604	7,537	9,209	2.9	2.6	3.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.6	3.3	3.9
U.S.....										4.4	4.6	4.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.6	4.7	5.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/06. Run Date 10/06.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

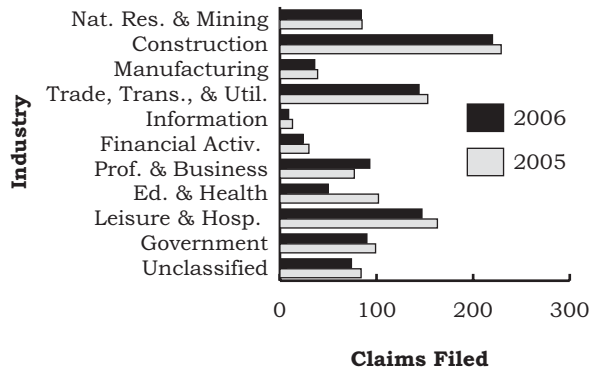
(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

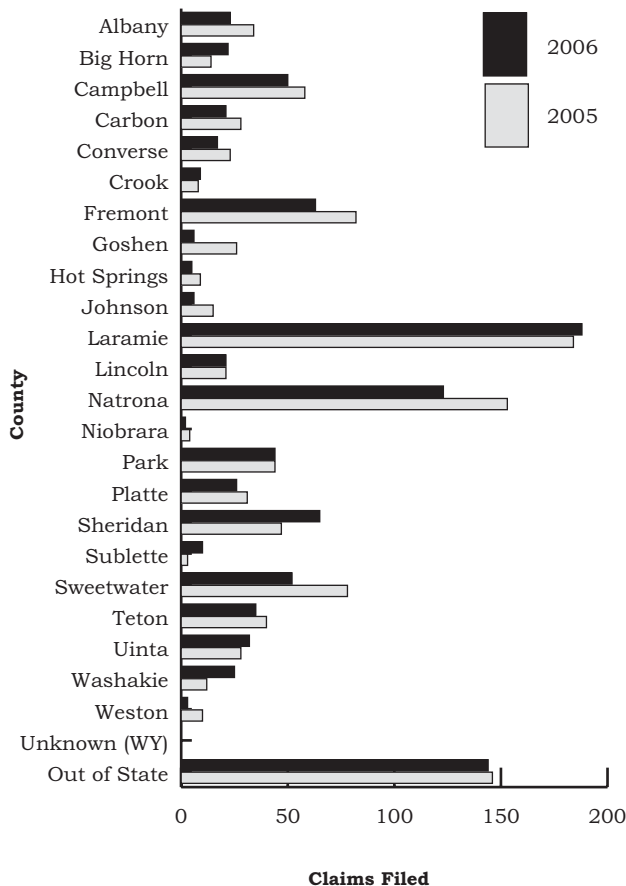
by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Statewide initial claims increased by 13.7% over the month and fell by 9.5% over the year. September's total of 994 claims was the fourth lowest in the last 10 years.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2006



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2006



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Sep06	Aug06	Sep05	Sep06	Sep05
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	994	874	1,098	13.7	-9.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	340	314	353	8.3	-3.7
Natural Resources and Mining	84	80	85	5.0	-1.2
Mining	80	70	77	14.3	3.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	4	6	10	-33.3	-60.0
Construction	220	189	229	16.4	-3.9
Manufacturing	36	45	39	-20.0	-7.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	490	427	562	14.8	-12.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	144	144	153	0.0	-5.9
Wholesale Trade	26	25	24	4.0	8.3
Retail Trade	77	85	101	-9.4	-23.8
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	41	34	28	20.6	46.4
Information	9	10	13	-10.0	-30.8
Financial Activities	24	23	30	4.3	-20.0
Professional & Business Serv.	93	64	77	45.3	20.8
Educational & Health Services	50	75	102	-33.3	-51.0
Leisure & Hospitality	147	75	163	96.0	-9.8
Other Services	23	36	24	-36.1	-4.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	90	79	99	13.9	-9.1
Federal Government	41	29	31	41.4	32.3
State Government	16	14	21	14.3	-23.8
Local Government	33	36	47	-8.3	-29.8
Local Education	9	11	10	-18.2	-10.0
UNCLASSIFIED	74	54	84	37.0	-11.9

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	185	190	180	-2.6	2.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	59	51	56	15.7	5.4
Construction	56	41	43	36.6	30.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	95	111	99	-14.4	-4.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	31	48	24	-35.4	29.2
Financial Activities	8	8	6	0.0	33.3
Professional & Business Serv.	23	16	16	43.8	43.8
Educational & Health Services	12	14	30	-14.3	-60.0
Leisure & Hospitality	14	15	16	-6.7	-12.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21	20	15	5.0	40.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	8	10	25.0	0.0

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	123	126	150	-2.4	-18.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	49	43	56	14.0	-12.5
Construction	31	23	39	34.8	-20.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	69	71	84	-2.8	-17.9
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	20	23	25	-13.0	-20.0
Financial Activities	3	2	9	50.0	-66.7
Professional & Business Serv.	19	11	11	72.7	72.7
Educational & Health Services	11	12	17	-8.3	-35.3
Leisure & Hospitality	10	15	16	-33.3	-37.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1	8	6	-87.5	-83.3
UNCLASSIFIED	4	4	4	0.0	0.0

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

Continued weeks claimed declined by 17.2% over the month and 14.3% over the year. The statewide total of 6,038 is the lowest level for any month on record dating to January 1997.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed		Percent Change		
	Sep06	Aug06	Sep05	Sep06	Sep05
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	6,038	7,294	7,045	-17.2	-14.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,758	1,793	2,070	-2.0	-15.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,769	1,988	2,009	-11.0	-11.9
Natural Resources and Mining	403	453	612	-11.0	-34.2
Mining	326	383	581	-14.9	-43.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	17	28	43	-39.3	-60.5
Construction	1,027	1,204	1,059	-14.7	-3.0
Manufacturing	339	331	338	2.4	0.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	3,268	3,973	3,599	-17.7	-9.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,063	1,139	1,095	-6.7	-2.9
Wholesale Trade	186	184	134	1.1	38.8
Retail Trade	657	721	760	-8.9	-13.6
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	220	234	201	-6.0	9.5
Information	89	122	117	-27.0	-23.9
Financial Activities	214	219	271	-2.3	-21.0
Professional & Business Serv.	571	609	606	-6.2	-5.8
Educational & Health Serv.	567	953	665	-40.5	-14.7
Leisure & Hospitality	505	630	640	-19.8	-21.1
Other Services	259	301	205	-14.0	26.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	623	890	952	-30.0	-34.6
Federal Government	115	133	227	-13.5	-49.3
State Government	101	134	170	-24.6	-40.6
Local Government	407	623	555	-34.7	-26.7
Local Education	119	145	205	-17.9	-42.0
UNCLASSIFIED	378	443	485	-14.7	-22.1

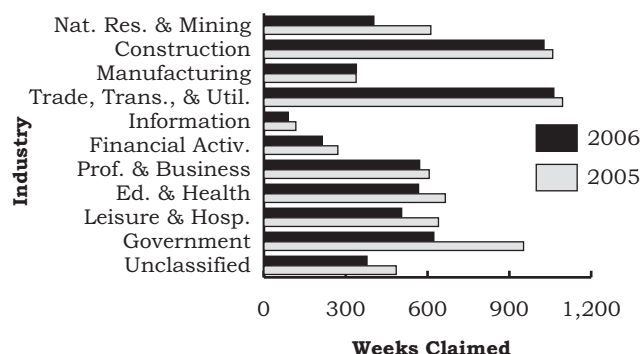
LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,302	1,511	1,239	-13.8	5.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	412	403	392	2.2	5.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	316	341	220	-7.3	43.6
Construction	240	258	183	-7.0	31.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	822	960	768	-7.0	7.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	294	322	167	-19.2	76.0
Financial Activities	77	66	82	16.7	-6.1
Professional & Business Serv.	153	183	160	-16.4	-4.4
Educational & Health Services	129	149	166	-13.4	-22.3
Leisure & Hospitality	99	116	125	-14.7	-20.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	139	171	212	-18.7	-34.4
UNCLASSIFIED	25	39	39	-35.9	-35.9

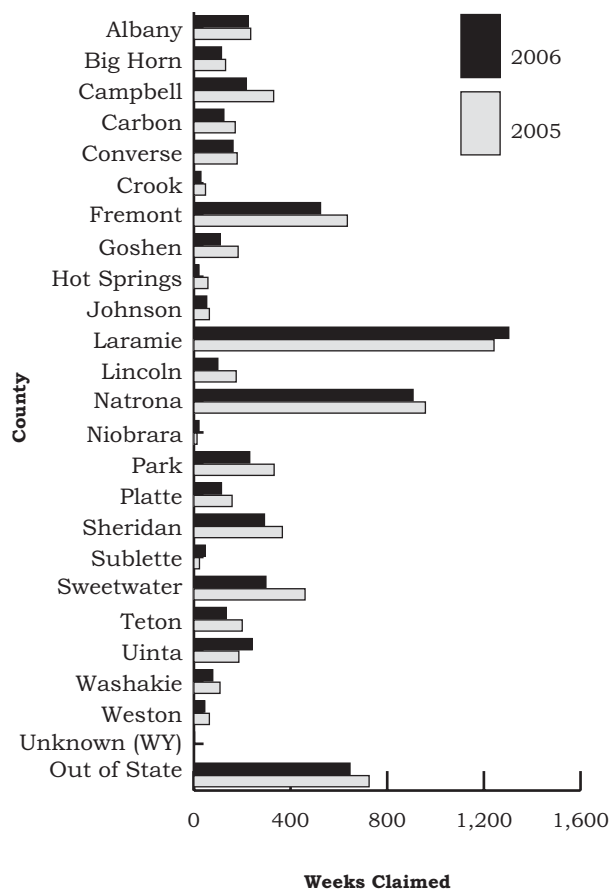
NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	906	1,048	959	-13.5	-5.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	290	268	315	8.2	-7.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	223	228	290	-2.2	-23.1
Construction	114	117	113	-2.6	0.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	617	746	588	-17.3	4.9
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	201	227	193	-11.5	4.1
Financial Activities	17	29	53	-41.4	-67.9
Professional & Business Serv.	141	154	112	-8.4	25.9
Educational & Health Services	99	170	86	-41.8	15.1
Leisure & Hospitality	95	112	88	-15.2	8.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	49	48	60	2.1	-18.3
UNCLASSIFIED	17	26	21	-34.6	-19.0

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, September 2006



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, September 2006



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