

TRENDS

Wyoming's Areas of Substantial Unemployment

by: *Brad Payne, Senior Economist*

While Wyoming still has two areas identified as potential Areas of Substantial Unemployment in Program Year 2005, the affected population is significantly smaller than in Program Year 2004.

As part of Wyoming's Labor Market Information (LMI) Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Government, potential Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASU) are identified annually for the purpose of allocating federal funds under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The ASU accounts for one-third of the formula used to allocate funding for WIA Youth and Adult Activities Programs (U.S. Department of Labor, n.d.). Developing ASUs help us to identify areas of the state facing economic difficulty. Fewer ASUs may indicate a robust economy. On the other hand, a community's capacity to demonstrate a high unemployment rate could indicate the availability of labor to businesses that

might be considering relocation to the area.

This article provides an overview of the designation process and illustrates Wyoming's Program Year 2004 (PY2004) and PY2005 areas with substantially high unemployment.

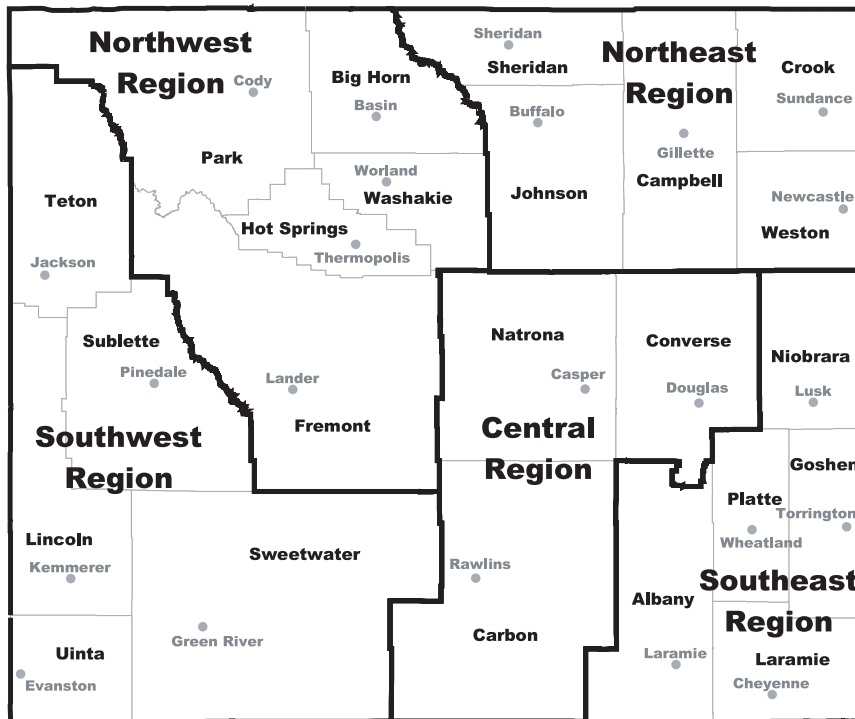
In order to qualify as an ASU, the Employment and Training Administration stipulates three requirements regarding geography, population, and unemployment rate. First, the area must be composed of geographically contiguous cities, counties, census tracts, or other Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) areas within the state.

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total unemployed workers decreased over the year....page 6**
- **Employment in Natural Resources & Mining continued to grow at a rapid pace....page 8**
- **The unemployment rates in Wyoming (3.8%) and surrounding states remained below that of the nation (5.5%)....page 9**
- **Over-the-year Unemployment Insurance Continued Claims declined for the 14th consecutive month....page 15**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment,
Cynthia A. Pomeroy, Director

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

Tom Gallagher, Manager
e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us
307-473-3801

Dr. Mark Harris, Workforce Information Supervisor
e-mail: mharris@state.wy.us
307-473-3826

Krista R. Shinkle, Editor
e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us
307-473-3808

Susan J. Murray, Associate Editor

e-mail: smurra1@state.wy.us
307-473-3835

Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Dr. Mark A. Harris, Susan J. Murray, Brad Payne, and Krista R. Shinkle.

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month:
David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Margaret Hiatt, Douglas W. Leonard, Susan J. Murray, Brad Payne, Carol Toups, and Sherry Wen.

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ISSN 0512-4409

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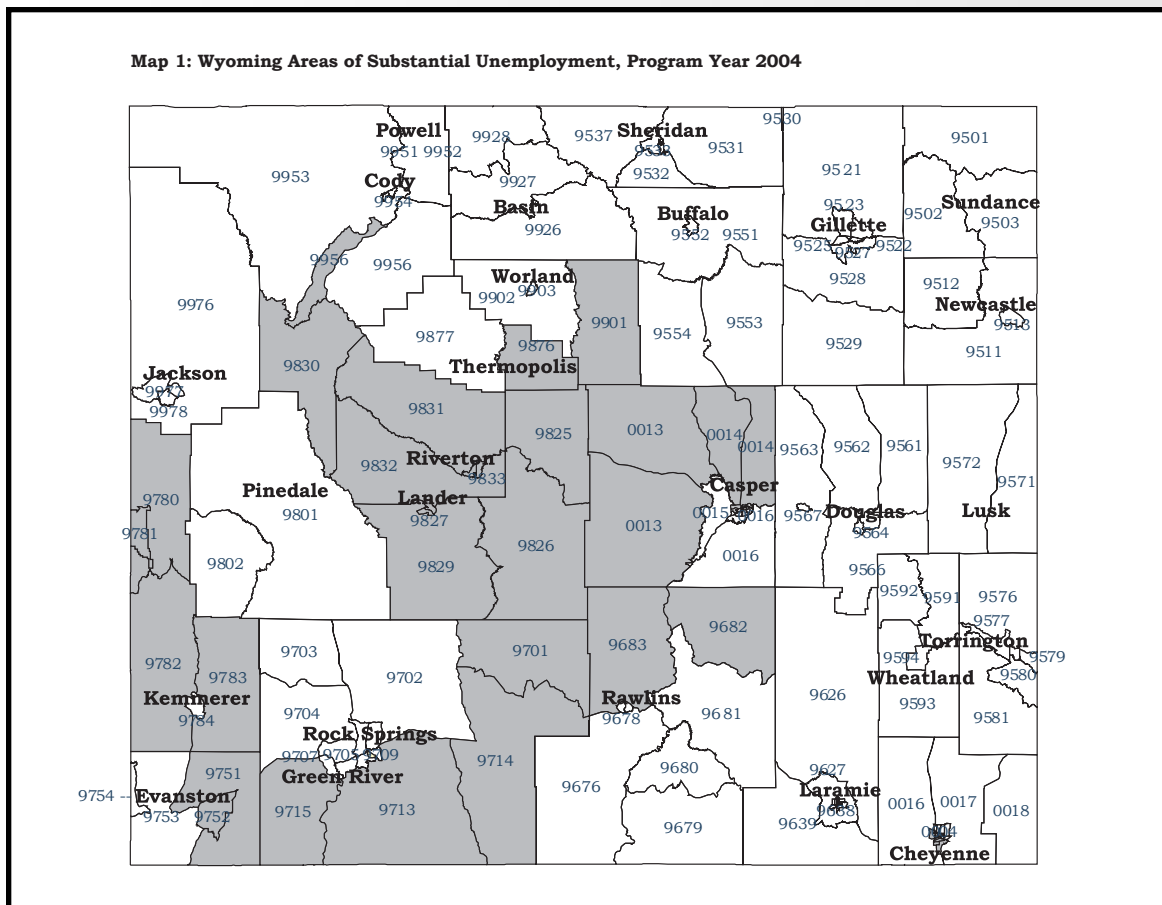
Second, the area’s population must be at least 10,000 persons. Third, the area’s 12-month average unemployment rate for the July-to-June reference period must be at least 6.5 percent. The challenge is to build as large an area as possible that meets the three requirements.

If the statewide unemployment rate is 6.5 percent or higher, the state qualifies as an ASU in its entirety. If the statewide unemployment rate is less than 6.5 percent, BLS has established three methods for building a qualifying ASU. First, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) areas (e.g., counties) can be added together to form an ASU. Second, LAUS areas can be subtracted from a larger geographic area to form the ASU. For example, a complete county can be added to three census tracts (in neighboring counties) to create an ASU, or an ASU could be created by subtracting

two counties from the state. The third method used to build an ASU is known as census-sharing of areas. This method allows partial LAUS areas (e.g., census tracts) to stand alone as an ASU, to be added to other partial areas, or to be subtracted from other partial areas in order to build a whole ASU. In PY2004 and PY2005, Wyoming’s ASUs were constructed using the census-sharing method.

Map 1 illustrates the PY2004 ASUs. Two qualifying ASUs were identified within Wyoming: the Central/Southwest ASU and the Cheyenne ASU. Based on the 1990 census, the two areas had a combined population of 98,387 - accounting for 21.7 percent of Wyoming’s total population.

The PY2004 Central/Southwest area included contiguous census tracts in nine counties.



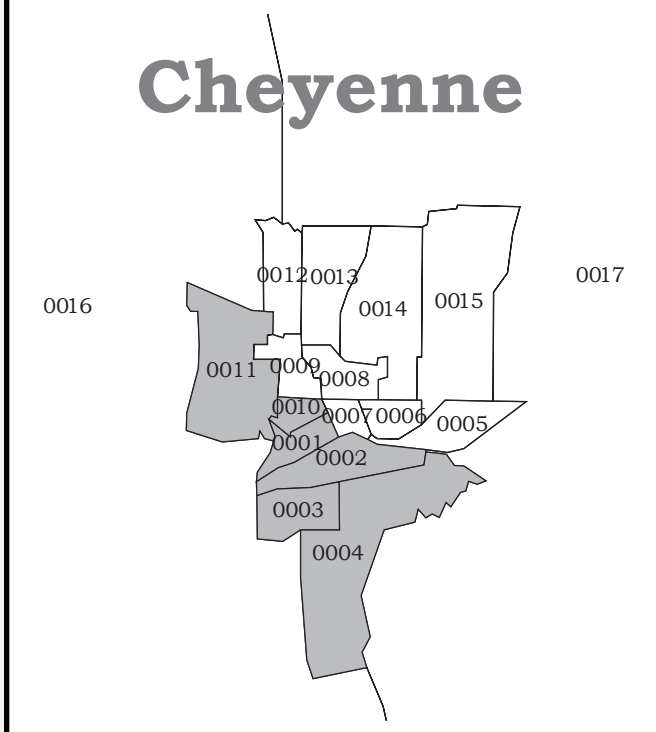
The only census tract in Fremont County not included in the ASU was tract 9835 (part of Riverton) while the only census tract in Lincoln County not included was tract 9784 (Kemmerer). The combined 1990 population for the contiguous census tracts was 16.6 percent (75,589) of the total statewide population, and the ASU unemployment rate was 6.5 percent.

The PY2004 Cheyenne ASU illustrated in Map 2 consists of six contiguous census tracts located south and west of the city of Cheyenne (in Laramie County). The combined population for the Cheyenne ASU was 22,798. This total represents 31.2 percent of Laramie County's population and 5.0 percent of the statewide population. The 12-month average unemployment rate (beginning July 2002) for the six census tracts was 6.6 percent.

Map 3 (see page 5), the PY2005 designated ASUs, shows a marked difference from the PY2004 ASU determination. While Wyoming still has two areas identified as potential ASUs, the coverage area and the affected population is significantly smaller than in PY2004. The two qualifying areas are the Central ASU and the Cheyenne ASU. Again based on the 1990 census, the two areas combined for a total population of 75,780, or 16.7 percent of the statewide total population.

The PY2005 Central ASU includes census tracts in only two counties: Fremont and Natrona. The Central ASU population is 49,938 (11.0% of the statewide population) and the unemployment rate is 6.5 percent. The 33.9 percent decrease in the ASU population from PY2004 to PY2005 is the result of significant decreases in most county unemployment rates for the corresponding reference periods. For example, Lincoln County's average unemployment rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points from PY2004 to PY2005

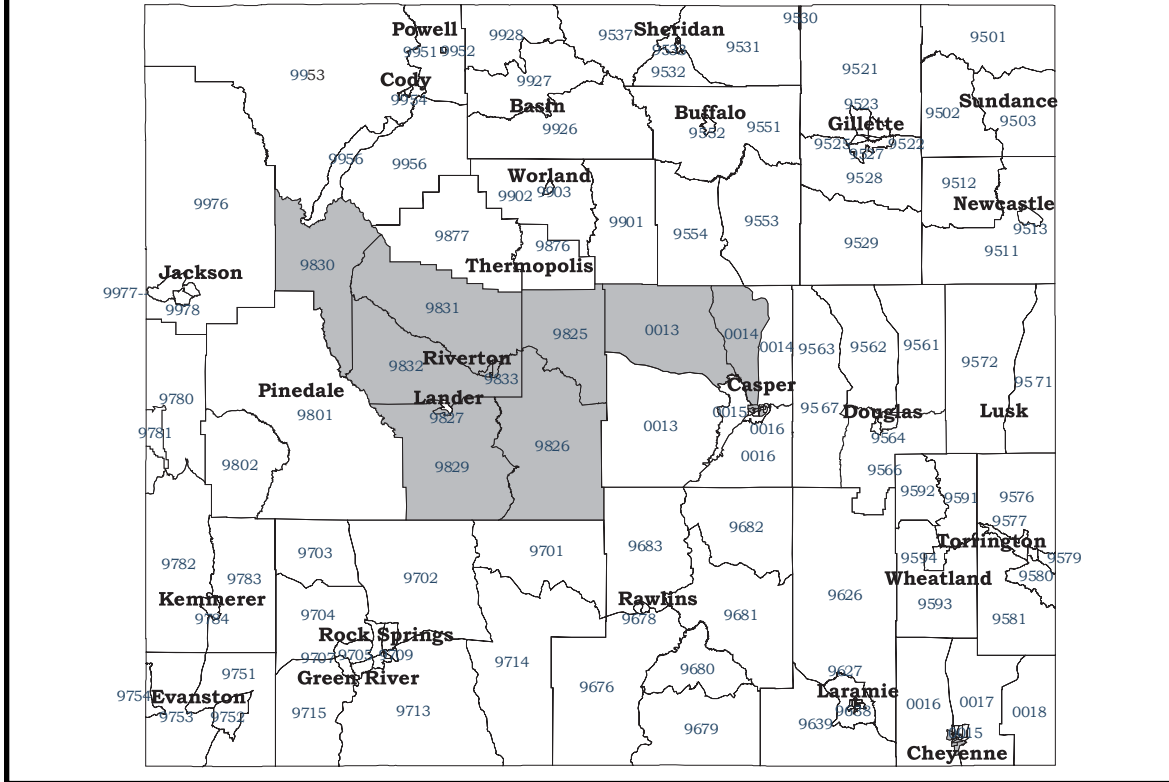
Map 2: Cheyenne Area of Substantial Unemployment, □
Program Year 2004



while Sweetwater and Uinta counties' unemployment rates fell by 0.8 and 0.9 percentage points, respectively.

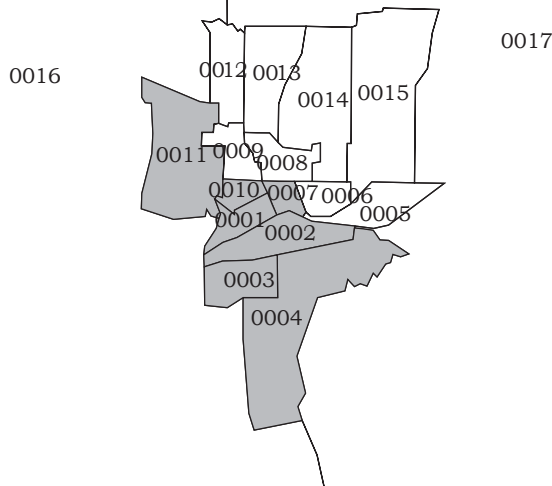
While the statewide ASU totals decreased between PY2004 and PY2005, the Cheyenne ASU experienced an increase over PY2004. As shown in Map 4 (see page 5), the current designation adds census tract 0007 to the six previously designated tracts. The area's combined population is 25,842, representing 35.3 percent of Laramie County's 1990 population. The Cheyenne ASU accounts for 5.7 percent of the statewide population. The July 2003 to June 2004 average unemployment rate for the Cheyenne ASU is 6.6 percent. The 13.4 percent increase in the Cheyenne ASU population from PY2004 to PY2005 is due to an increase in Laramie County's unemployment rate between the corresponding reference periods. The 12-

Map 3: Wyoming Areas of Substantial Unemployment, Program Year 2005



Map 4: Cheyenne Area of Substantial Unemployment, Program Year 2005

Cheyenne



month average unemployment rate increased from 3.7 to 4.1 percent.

A reduction in the size of the Central ASU from PY2004 to PY2005 indicates an improvement in Wyoming's economic situation. However, while conditions may be good for workers and jobseekers, low unemployment rates may suggest labor supply problems for economic developers and growing businesses.

References

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. (n.d.) Retrieved December 20, 2004 from <http://www.doleta.gov/budget/WIAFormDesc.pdf>



Job Growth Up and Unemployment Down in 2004

by: Carol Toups, David Bullard, Valerie A. Davis, Brad Payne, Susan J. Murray, and Sherry Wen

Table 1 contains annual average data for the Current Population Survey (CPS) population, labor force, jobs worked, unemployed individuals, and annual Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients. The percentage changes for the period 2003 to 2004 indicate that total unemployed workers in Wyoming decreased by 13.4 percent and total UI recipients decreased by 8.9 percent. The number of jobs worked increased by 5,400 jobs or 2.2 percent, which is larger than the 2002 to 2003 increase of 2,100 jobs (0.8%).

In first quarter 2004, Wyoming covered employment grew by 6,907 jobs or 3.0 percent (see Table 2, page 7). Second

quarter over-the-year employment growth remained fairly stable with an increase of 7,091 jobs or 2.9 percent. Total wages for first quarter showed an over-the-year increase of 7.2 percent, slightly higher than the second quarter increase of 7.1 percent.

The Map (see page 7) identifies over-the-year changes in unemployment rates from October 2003 to October 2004. States with the darkest shading had unemployment rate increases. As a whole, the U.S. experienced little change in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates from 2003 (6.0%) to 2004 (5.5%). Washington had the largest decrease of -1.9 percentage points (7.5% to 5.6%).

Table 1: CPS Population, Labor Force, Jobs Worked, Unemployed Individuals, and Annual Unemployment Insurance (UI) Recipients in Wyoming, 2000-2003 and Projections for 2004

			Percent			Percent			Percent
	2000	2001	Change	2002	Change	2003	Change	2004 ^a	Change
CPS Population^b	373,648	377,297	1.0%	382,704	1.4%	386,858	1.1%	390,793	1.0%
Labor Force	267,947	272,187	1.6%	269,942	-0.8%	278,367	3.1%	278,591	0.1%
Jobs Worked^c	239,300	245,400	2.5%	247,900	1.0%	250,000	0.8%	255,400	2.2%
Unemployed^d	10,359	10,706	3.4%	11,332	5.8%	12,204	7.7%	10,568	-13.4%
UI Recipients^e	14,519	14,541	0.2%	17,211	18.4%	18,896	9.8%	17,220	-8.9%

^aProjected.

^bThe Current Population Survey (CPS) population is an estimate of all noninstitutional residents age 16 and over.

^cCurrent Employment Statistics (CES) estimates by place of work.

^dNumber of unemployed individuals (12-month average).

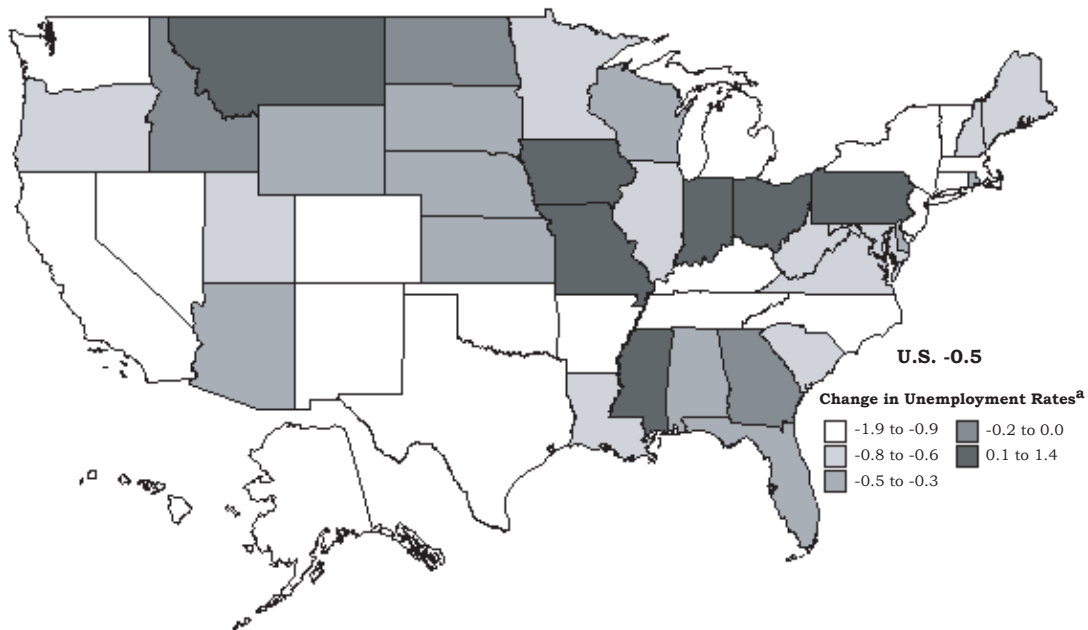
^eTotal number of individuals who received Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits at any time during the calendar year.

Table 2: Wyoming Statewide Covered Employment and Total Wages, First and Second Quarters 2003 and 2004

Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages			
First Quarter		Change		First Quarter		Change	
2003	2004	Number	Percent	2003	2004	Amount	Percent
230,620	237,527	6,907	3.0	\$1,679,813,923	\$1,800,717,857	\$120,903,934	7.2

Average Monthly Employment				Total Wages			
Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
2003	2004	Number	Percent	2003	2004	Amount	Percent
243,630	250,721	7,091	2.9	\$1,781,866,184	\$1,908,715,798	\$126,849,614	7.1

Map: Change in the Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate by State, October 2003 to October 2004



^a From October 2003 to October 2004, Idaho's unemployment rate remained steady (0.0%), but given the 90 percent confidence interval in unemployment rates, it is possible that there may have been a slight change.

Wyoming experienced a slight over-the-year decrease from 4.3 percent in October 2002 to 3.8 percent in October 2003. The unemployment rate for several mid-American states and states

bordering the Great Lakes did not fare as well as many mountain and western states.



Job Growth Continues in October; Unemployment Down Slightly

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Aided by relatively high energy prices, Wyoming employment continued to grow in October, adding 4,800 jobs or 1.9 percent in over-the-year comparisons. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly from 3.9 percent in September to 3.8 percent in October while U.S. unemployment edged upward, rising from 5.4 percent to 5.5 percent.

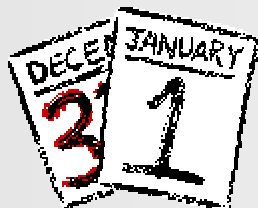
From September to October, Wyoming lost 2,400 jobs or 0.9 percent. This seasonal decrease is consistent with those seen in previous years. Seasonal job losses in Retail Trade (-600 jobs or -2.0%) and Leisure & Hospitality (-3,800 jobs or -11.2%) were partially offset by job gains in Government (1,800 jobs or 2.8%). The beginning of the academic school year for public schools and colleges was mostly responsible for the seasonal job gains in Government.

From October 2003 to October 2004, Wyoming gained 4,800 jobs or 1.9 percent. Employment in Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas)

continued to grow at a rapid pace, adding 2,000 jobs or 10.5 percent. Other growth industries included Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (400 jobs or 3.4%), Financial Activities (400 jobs or 3.9%), Educational & Health Services (1,000 jobs or 4.7%), Leisure & Hospitality (400 jobs or 1.3%), and Government (700 jobs or 1.1%).

Minor job losses were recorded in Construction (-100 jobs or -0.5%), Manufacturing (-100 jobs or -1.0%), Information (-100 jobs or -2.4%), Professional & Business Services (-300 jobs or -1.9%), and Other Services (-100 jobs or -1.0%).

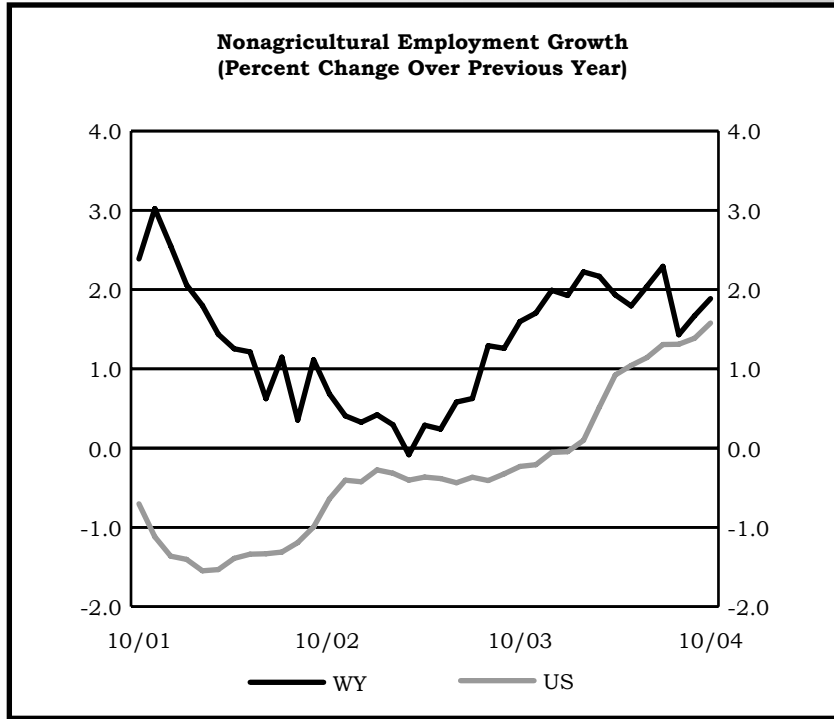
Across Wyoming's 23 counties, unemployment rates remained low. Laramie County posted the highest rate in October (4.6%). It was followed by Fremont (4.4%) and Platte (4.0%) counties. The lowest rates were found in Sublette (1.5%), Albany (1.6%), and Johnson (1.7%) counties.



Happy New Year!

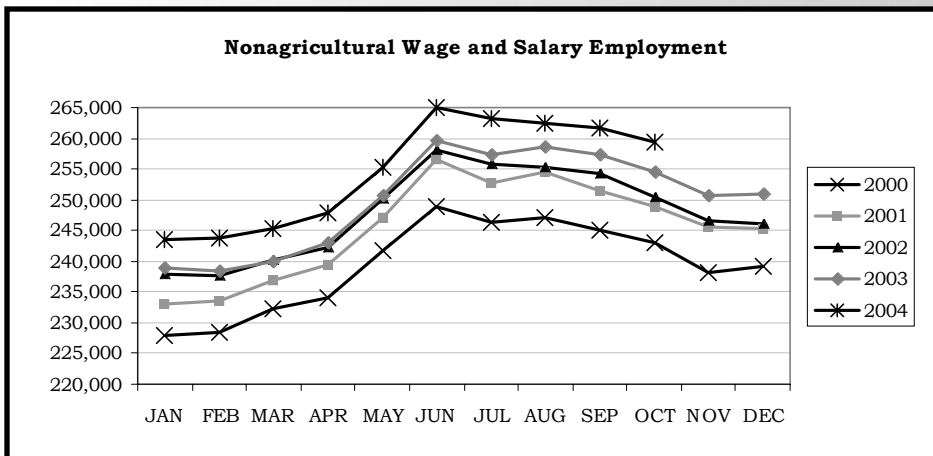
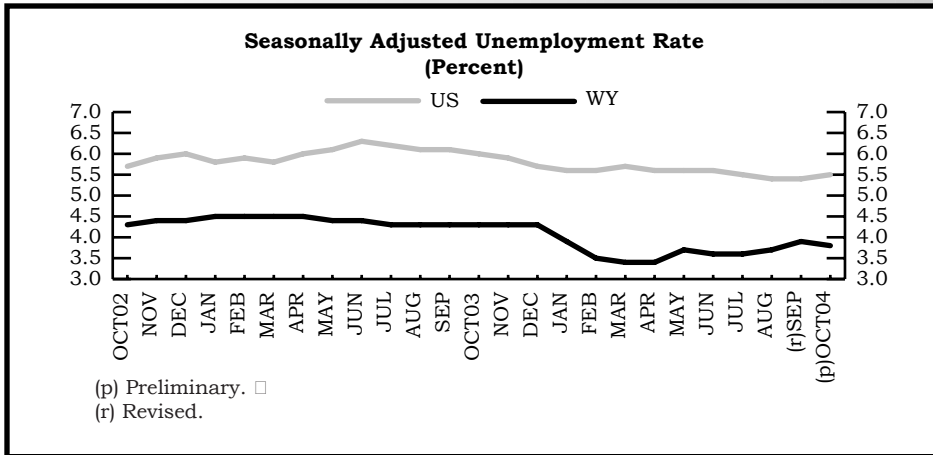
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State Unemployment Rates October 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.1
District of Columbia	8.5
Alaska	7.2
Oregon	7.2
Michigan	6.6
South Carolina	6.5
Mississippi	6.3
Ohio	6.3
Illinois	6.1
Arkansas	5.7
California	5.7
Louisiana	5.6
Missouri	5.6
Texas	5.6
Washington	5.6
Alabama	5.5
Pennsylvania	5.5
United States	5.5
Indiana	5.4
Idaho	5.2
New Mexico	5.2
New York	5.2
Tennessee	5.1
West Virginia	5.1
Colorado	5.0
Wisconsin	5.0
Arizona	4.8
Iowa	4.8
Kansas	4.8
Montana	4.8
North Carolina	4.8
Utah	4.8
Kentucky	4.7
New Jersey	4.7
Connecticut	4.6
Maine	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
Florida	4.5
Rhode Island	4.5
Oklahoma	4.4
Minnesota	4.3
Georgia	4.2
Delaware	4.0
Maryland	3.9
Wyoming	3.8
North Dakota	3.7
Nevada	3.6
Nebraska	3.5
New Hampshire	3.4
Hawaii	3.3
South Dakota	3.3
Virginia	3.3
Vermont	3.1



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Seasonal job losses in Retail Trade and Leisure & Hospitality were partially offset by job gains in Government.

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		
	Oct04(p)	Sep04(r)	Oct03(b)	Oct04	Oct04	Sep04	Oct03	Oct04(p)	Sep04(r)	Oct03(b)	Oct04	Oct04	Sep04	Oct03	
WYOMING STATEWIDE								LARAMIE COUNTY							
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	259.3	261.7	254.5	-0.9	1.9			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.8	40.7	40.1	0.2	1.7		
TOTAL PRIVATE	193.5	197.7	189.4	-2.1	2.2			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.4	28.5	27.7	-0.4	2.5		
GOODS PRODUCING	51.9	51.5	50.1	0.8	3.6			GOODS PRODUCING	4.3	4.4	4.2	-2.3	2.4		
Natural Resources & Mining	21.0	20.8	19.0	1.0	10.5			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.7	2.9	2.6	-6.9	3.8		
Mining	20.9	20.7	18.9	1.0	10.6			Manufacturing	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0		
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.6	3.5	3.2	2.9	12.5			SERVICE PROVIDING	36.5	36.3	35.9	0.6	1.7		
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.3	7.4	7.4	-1.4	-1.4			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.7	8.5	8.4	2.4	3.6		
Coal Mining	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Support Activities for Mining	10.0	9.8	8.3	2.0	20.5			Retail Trade	5.6	5.4	5.5	3.7	1.8		
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	6.6	6.5	5.6	1.5	17.9			Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0		
Construction	21.2	21.1	21.3	0.5	-0.5			Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0		
Construction of Buildings	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.9	0.0			Professional & Business Services	3.3	3.4	3.3	-2.9	0.0		
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	6.1	6.4	6.9	-4.7	-11.6			Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3		
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.8	10.6	10.1	1.9	6.9			Leisure & Hospitality	4.4	4.5	4.2	-2.2	4.8		
Manufacturing	9.7	9.6	9.8	1.0	-1.0			Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0		
Durable Goods	5.0	5.1	4.9	-2.0	2.0			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.2	12.4	1.6	0.0		
Non-Durable Goods	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.4	-4.1			Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	0.0		
SERVICE PROVIDING	207.4	210.2	204.4	-1.3	1.5			State Government	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0		
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	49.4	50.1	48.4	-1.4	2.1			Local Government	5.9	5.7	5.9	3.5	0.0		
Wholesale Trade	7.2	7.3	6.9	-1.4	4.3			NATRONA COUNTY							
Merchant Whslsrs., Durable	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.9	35.7	34.8	0.6	3.2		
Retail Trade	30.1	30.7	29.8	-2.0	1.0			GOODS PRODUCING	30.2	30.2	29.2	0.0	3.4		
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.4	4.3	4.2	2.3	4.8			Natural Resources & Mining	7.1	7.0	6.7	1.4	6.0		
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.4	2.5	2.4	-4.0	0.0			Construction	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.6	11.5		
Food & Beverage Stores	4.7	4.8	4.9	-2.1	-4.1			Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0		
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0			SERVICE PROVIDING	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0		
Gasoline Stations	4.1	4.3	4.2	-4.7	-2.4			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	28.8	28.7	28.1	0.3	2.5		
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	6.1	5.8	-3.3	1.7			Wholesale Trade	8.0	8.2	7.8	-2.4	2.6		
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6			Retail Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8		
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.1	12.1	11.7	0.0	3.4			Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	4.7	4.9	4.6	-4.1	2.2		
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0			Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0		
Transportation & Warehousing	9.9	9.9	9.5	0.0	4.2			Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0		
Truck Transportation	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0			Professional & Business Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0		
Information	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-2.4			Educational & Health Services	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2		
Financial Activities	10.7	10.8	10.3	-0.9	3.9			Leisure & Hospitality	4.7	4.6	4.4	2.2	6.8		
Finance & Insurance	7.1	7.1	6.9	0.0	2.9			Other Services	3.4	3.5	3.2	-2.9	6.2		
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.6	3.7	3.4	-2.7	5.9			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.7	5.5	5.6	3.6	1.8		
Professional & Business Services	15.5	15.6	15.8	-0.6	-1.9			Federal Government	0.7	0.8	0.7	-12.5	0.0		
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0		
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0			Local Government	4.3	4.0	4.2	7.5	2.4		
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0			Local Education	2.9	2.7	3.0	7.4	-3.3		
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.1	7.3	7.7	-2.7	-7.8										
Educational & Health Services	22.1	22.0	21.1	0.5	4.7										
Educational	2.0	2.1	2.1	-4.8	-4.8										
Health Care & Social Assistance	20.1	19.9	19.0	1.0	5.8										
Ambulatory Health Care	7.6	7.5	7.1	1.3	7.0										
Offices of Physicians	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0										
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0										
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.0	7.0										
Social Assistance	5.1	5.0	4.8	2.0	6.3										
Leisure & Hospitality	30.2	34.0	29.8	-11.2	1.3										
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.7	3.1	2.6	-12.9	3.8										
Accommodation & Food Services	27.5	30.9	27.2	-11.0	1.1										
Accommodation	9.4	12.1	9.3	-22.3	1.1										
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	18.1	18.8	17.9	-3.7	1.1										
Other Services	9.6	9.6	9.7	0.0	-1.0										
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2										
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.8	64.0	65.1	2.8	1.1										
Federal Government	7.8	8.3	7.8	-6.0	0.0										
State Government	15.6	14.7	15.2	6.1	2.6										
State Govt. Education	6.3	5.4	6.1	16.7	3.3										
Local Government	42.4	41.0	42.1	3.4	0.7										
Local Govt. Education	22.6	21.0	22.4	7.6	0.9										
Hospitals	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6										

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.

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

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Oct04(p)	Sep04(r)	Oct03(b)	Sep04	Oct03
				Oct04	Oct04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.5	22.5	21.5	0.0	4.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.6	18.7	17.8	-0.5	4.5
GOODS PRODUCING	9.1	9.2	8.6	-1.1	5.8
Natural Resources & Mining	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9
Construction	2.2	2.3	2.0	-4.3	10.0
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.4	13.3	12.9	0.8	3.9
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	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
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	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	5.4
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.7	21.6	21.0	0.5	3.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.4	17.4	16.8	0.0	3.6
GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.4	7.0	0.0	5.7
Natural Resources & Mining	4.1	4.1	3.7	0.0	10.8
Construction	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.3	14.2	14.0	0.7	2.1
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3
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	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.2	4.2	2.4	2.4
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.9	18.2	15.3	-12.6	3.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.6	15.8	13.1	-13.9	3.8
GOODS PRODUCING	2.2	2.3	2.4	-4.3	-8.3
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.0	2.1	2.2	-4.8	-9.1
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.7	15.9	12.9	-13.8	6.2
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.3	2.4	2.3	-4.2	0.0
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5.1	7.0	4.5	-27.1	13.3
Other Services	0.4	0.5	0.5	-20.0	-20.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.4	2.2	-4.2	4.5

State Unemployment Rates October 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.1
District of Columbia	8.4
Alaska	6.6
Mississippi	6.5
South Carolina	6.5
Oregon	6.4
Michigan	6.0
Alabama	5.8
Ohio	5.8
California	5.6
Illinois	5.5
Louisiana	5.3
Texas	5.3
Washington	5.2
Missouri	5.1
New Mexico	5.1
Pennsylvania	5.1
United States	5.1
Indiana	5.0
New York	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
Arizona	4.7
Arkansas	4.7
Kansas	4.7
Colorado	4.6
North Carolina	4.6
Florida	4.5
Kentucky	4.5
New Jersey	4.5
Oklahoma	4.4
Utah	4.4
West Virginia	4.4
Idaho	4.3
Massachusetts	4.3
Montana	4.3
Connecticut	4.2
Georgia	4.2
Iowa	4.2
Maine	4.2
Wisconsin	4.1
Rhode Island	4.0
Maryland	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Delaware	3.6
Nevada	3.4
Wyoming	3.4
Hawaii	3.3
Virginia	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
New Hampshire	3.0
South Dakota	2.9
Vermont	2.7
North Dakota	2.5

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) fell slightly in October.

	Oct 2004 (p)	Sept 2004 (r)	Oct 2003 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	281,626	280,507	281,924	0.4	-0.1
Unemployed	9,441	9,166	10,565	3.0	-10.6
Employed	272,185	271,341	271,359	0.3	0.3
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.4%/3.8%	3.3%/3.9%	3.7%/4.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.1%/5.5	5.1%/5.4%	5.6%/6.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,034,000	7,672,000	7,515,000	4.7	6.9
As a percent of all workers	5.7%	5.5%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	429,000	412,000	462,000	4.1	-7.1
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,407,000	4,073,000	4,394,000	8.2	0.3
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,010.68	\$1,026.86	\$964.82	-1.6	4.8
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	44.9	42.9	-2.0	2.6
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$857.01	\$830.25	\$808.15	3.2	6.0
Average Weekly Hours	43.6	45.0	44.6	-3.1	-2.2
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$641.52	\$679.40	\$625.28	-5.6	2.6
Average Weekly Hours	39.6	39.5	39.4	0.3	0.5
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$661.38	\$664.62	\$643.47	-0.5	2.8
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	40.6	40.7	0.2	0.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	8,701	8,209	9,619	6.0	-9.5
Benefits Paid	\$2,057,815	\$1,942,818	\$2,267,976	5.9	-9.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$236.50	\$236.67	\$235.78	-0.1	0.3
State Insured Covered Jobs	236,578	240,398	232,223	-1.6	1.9
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.0%	1.0%	1.2%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	188.4	187.2	182.2	0.6	3.4
Housing	191.0	191.0	185.7	0.0	2.9
Apparel	124.1	121.2	124.8	2.4	-0.6
Transportation	166.4	162.9	157.1	2.1	5.9
Medical Care	313.3	312.3	299.9	0.3	4.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	108.7	108.6	107.6	0.1	1.0
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	112.5	112.9	110.9	-0.4	1.4
Other Goods & Services	306.8	306.3	300.2	0.2	2.2
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All	149.8	147.7	139.3	1.4	7.5
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	233	319	203	-27.0	14.8
Valuation	\$33,367,000	\$52,621,000	\$35,967,000	-36.6	-7.2
Single Family Homes	194	264	182	-26.5	6.6
Valuation	\$30,503,000	\$48,690,000	\$34,240,000	-37.4	-10.9
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	82	85	69	-3.5	18.8

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Economist

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Sublette (1.5%), Albany (1.6%), and Johnson (1.7%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct 2004 (p)	Sep 2004 (r)	Oct 2003 (b)	Oct 2004 (p)	Sep 2004 (r)	Oct 2003 (b)	Oct 2004 (p)	Sep 2004 (r)	Oct 2003 (b)	Oct 2004 (p)	Sep 2004 (r)	Oct 2003 (b)
NORTHWEST	47,995	48,378	48,057	46,256	46,651	46,069	1,739	1,727	1,988	3.6	3.6	4.1
Big Horn	6,107	5,973	6,002	5,881	5,733	5,797	226	240	205	3.7	4.0	3.4
Fremont	18,912	18,848	19,126	18,078	18,027	18,097	834	821	1,029	4.4	4.4	5.4
Hot Springs	2,207	2,185	2,286	2,157	2,140	2,226	50	45	60	2.3	2.1	2.6
Park	16,070	16,846	15,931	15,589	16,364	15,380	481	482	551	3.0	2.9	3.5
Washakie	4,699	4,526	4,712	4,551	4,387	4,569	148	139	143	3.1	3.1	3.0
NORTHEAST	48,982	48,711	48,590	47,621	47,410	47,040	1,361	1,301	1,550	2.8	2.7	3.2
Campbell	23,335	23,085	23,111	22,658	22,414	22,322	677	671	789	2.9	2.9	3.4
Crook	3,163	3,173	3,030	3,049	3,068	2,927	114	105	103	3.6	3.3	3.4
Johnson	4,283	4,293	4,168	4,212	4,235	4,083	71	58	85	1.7	1.4	2.0
Sheridan	14,935	14,919	15,006	14,534	14,535	14,533	401	384	473	2.7	2.6	3.2
Weston	3,266	3,241	3,275	3,168	3,158	3,175	98	83	100	3.0	2.6	3.1
SOUTHWEST	56,546	57,680	56,385	54,730	55,987	54,099	1,816	1,693	2,286	3.2	2.9	4.1
Lincoln	7,900	7,924	7,642	7,615	7,648	7,321	285	276	321	3.6	3.5	4.2
Sublette	4,183	4,210	3,961	4,119	4,136	3,851	64	74	110	1.5	1.8	2.8
Sweetwater	21,292	21,082	21,085	20,654	20,479	20,309	638	603	776	3.0	2.9	3.7
Teton	11,645	12,830	11,967	11,244	12,545	11,464	401	285	503	3.4	2.2	4.2
Uinta	11,526	11,634	11,730	11,098	11,179	11,154	428	455	576	3.7	3.9	4.9
SOUTHEAST	76,364	74,588	76,469	73,622	71,933	74,067	2,742	2,655	2,402	3.6	3.6	3.1
Albany	19,875	18,980	20,087	19,551	18,653	19,761	324	327	326	1.6	1.7	1.6
Goshen	6,558	6,171	6,406	6,362	5,965	6,233	196	206	173	3.0	3.3	2.7
Laramie	44,231	43,744	44,398	42,214	41,824	42,685	2,017	1,920	1,713	4.6	4.4	3.9
Niobrara	1,243	1,229	1,198	1,218	1,209	1,163	25	20	35	2.0	1.6	2.9
Platte	4,457	4,464	4,380	4,277	4,282	4,225	180	182	155	4.0	4.1	3.5
CENTRAL	51,740	51,150	52,421	49,955	49,360	50,084	1,785	1,790	2,337	3.4	3.5	4.5
Carbon	8,060	8,112	8,295	7,793	7,856	7,914	267	256	381	3.3	3.2	4.6
Converse	6,638	6,546	6,638	6,401	6,313	6,378	237	233	260	3.6	3.6	3.9
Natrona	37,042	36,492	37,488	35,761	35,191	35,792	1,281	1,301	1,696	3.5	3.6	4.5
STATEWIDE	281,626	280,507	281,924	272,185	271,341	271,359	9,441	9,166	10,565	3.4	3.3	3.7
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.8	3.9	4.3
U.S.....										5.1	5.1	5.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.5	5.4	6.0

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 11/04.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

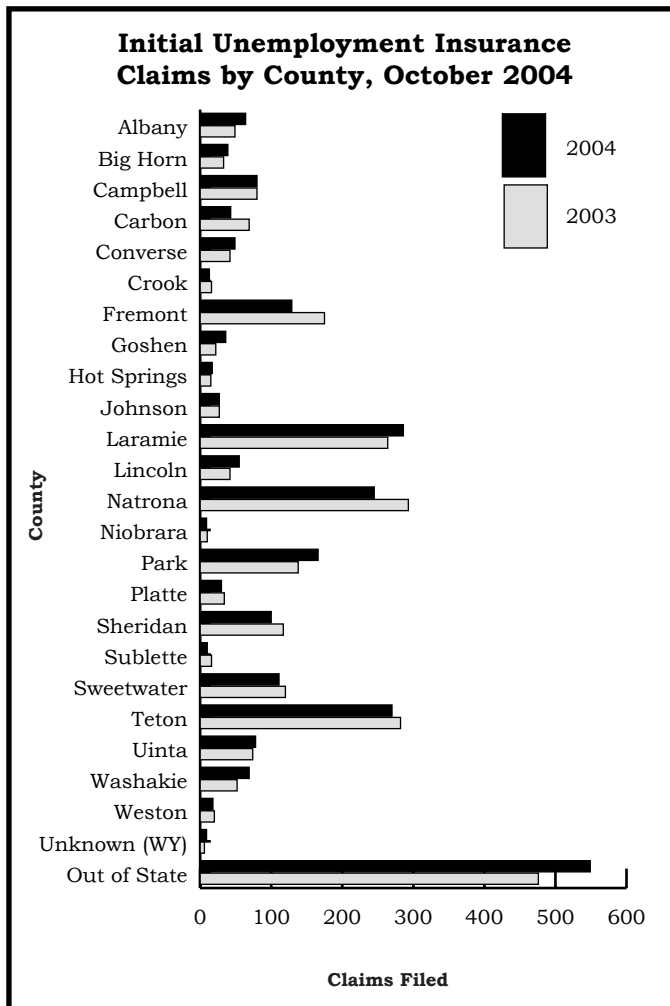
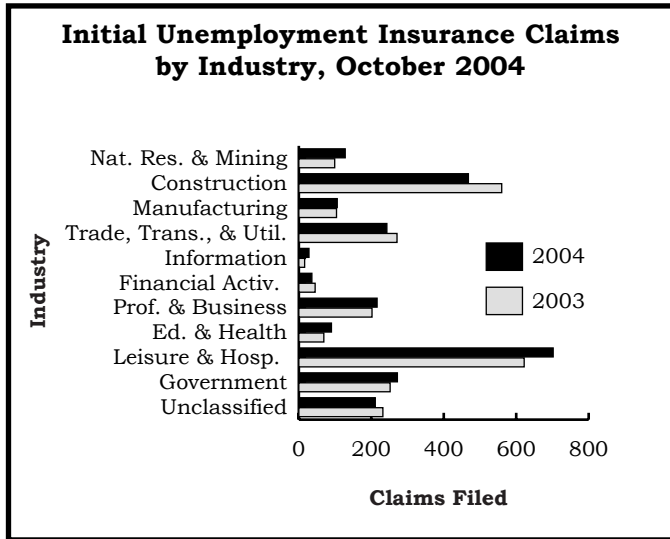
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Initial claims increased 1.2 percent over the year. Over-the-month initial claims increased 76.3 percent. The over-the-month increase is consistent with increases in recent history.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Oct04	Sep04	Oct03	Oct04
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,500	1,418	2,471	76.3 1.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	702	453	763	55.0 -8.0
Natural Resources and Mining	128	98	99	30.6 29.3
Mining	103	84	85	22.6 21.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	10	7	8	42.9 25.0
Construction	468	309	560	51.5 -16.4
Manufacturing	106	46	104	130.4 1.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,345	725	1,254	85.5 7.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	243	190	271	27.9 -10.3
Wholesale Trade	37	26	38	42.3 -2.6
Retail Trade	140	110	152	27.3 -7.9
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	66	54	81	22.2 -18.5
Information	28	53	16	-47.2 75.0
Financial Activities	36	29	45	24.1 -20.0
Professional & Business Serv.	216	142	202	52.1 6.9
Educational & Health Services	90	94	69	-4.3 30.4
Leisure & Hospitality	702	189	622	271.4 12.9
Other Services	30	28	29	7.1 3.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	272	108	252	151.9 7.9
Federal Government	174	37	149	370.3 16.8
State Government	25	20	31	25.0 -19.4
Local Government	73	51	72	43.1 1.4
Local Education	17	11	10	54.5 70.0
UNCLASSIFIED	181	132	202	37.1 -10.4

LARAMIE COUNTY				
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	284	271	263	4.8 8.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	81	72	109	12.5 -25.7
Construction	67	61	95	9.8 -29.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	159	167	106	-4.8 50.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	38	38	41	0.0 -7.3
Financial Activities	15	5	8	200.0 87.5
Professional & Business Serv.	54	42	31	28.6 74.2
Educational & Health Services	16	21	12	-23.8 33.3
Leisure & Hospitality	23	14	7	64.3 228.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	31	21	30	47.6 3.3
UNCLASSIFIED	13	11	18	18.2 -27.8

NATRONA COUNTY				
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	242	187	294	29.4 -17.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	93	54	132	72.2 -29.5
Construction	66	37	105	78.4 -37.1
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	122	118	133	3.4 -8.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	47	30	41	56.7 14.6
Financial Activities	5	5	7	0.0 -28.6
Professional & Business Serv.	32	42	36	-23.8 -11.1
Educational & Health Services	15	20	20	-25.0 -25.0
Leisure & Hospitality	18	17	19	5.9 -5.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12	9	19	33.3 -36.8
UNCLASSIFIED	15	6	10	150.0 50.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Continued claims declined 5.8 percent over the year. October 2004 marked the 14th consecutive month of over-the-year declines.

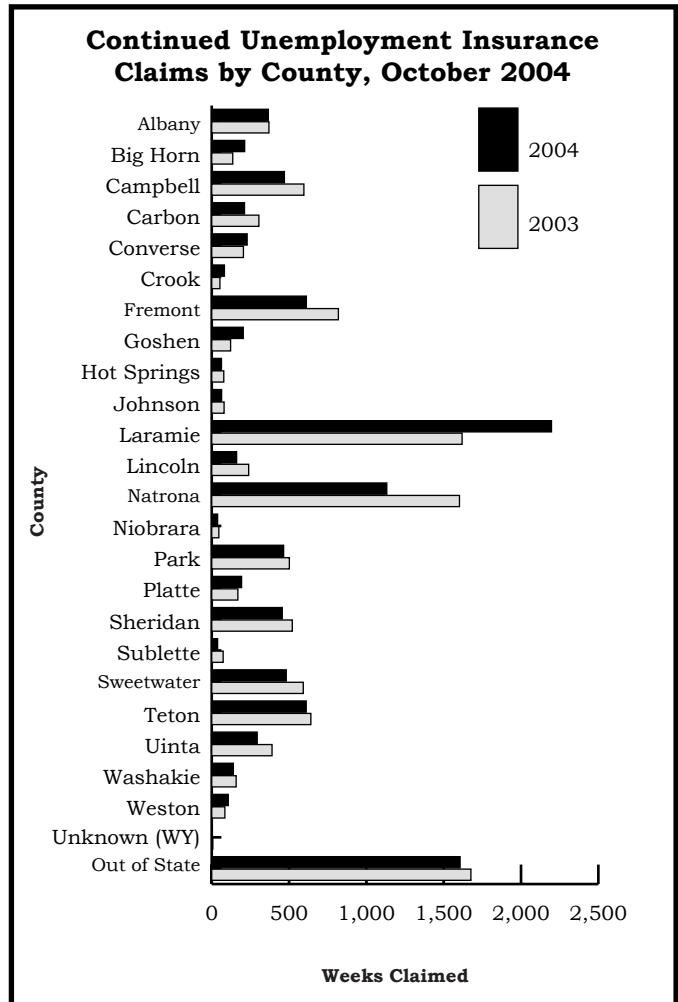
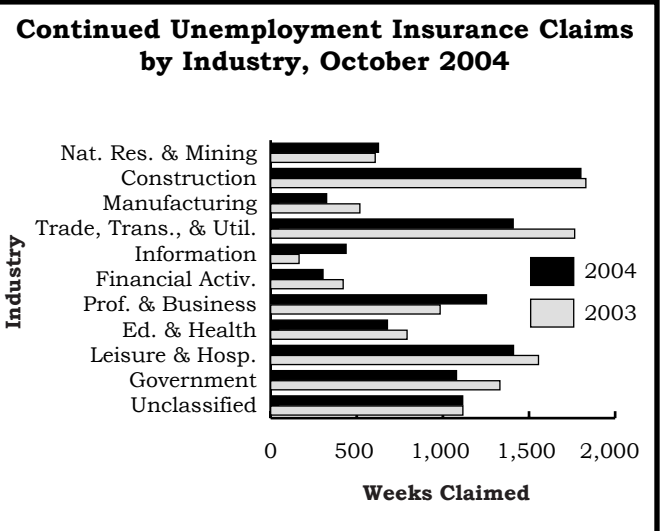
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Oct04	Sep04	Oct03	Oct04
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	10,437	9,777	11,084	6.8 -5.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	3,476	2,718	3,176	27.9 9.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	2,752	2,698	2,955	2.0 -6.9
Natural Resources and Mining	626	670	607	-6.6 3.1
Mining	479	488	519	-1.8 -7.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	48	60	72	-20.0 -33.3
Construction	1,801	1,654	1,830	8.9 -1.6
Manufacturing	325	374	518	-13.1 -37.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	5,728	5,290	5,927	8.3 -3.4
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,408	1,423	1,765	-1.1 -20.2
Wholesale Trade	259	277	389	-6.5 -33.4
Retail Trade	813	836	963	-2.8 -15.6
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	336	310	413	8.4 -18.6
Information	438	360	165	21.7 165.5
Financial Activities	304	333	421	-8.7 -27.8
Professional & Business Serv.	1,253	1,232	984	1.7 27.3
Educational & Health Serv.	678	781	792	-13.2 -14.4
Leisure & Hospitality	1,410	871	1,555	61.9 -9.3
Other Services	237	290	245	-18.3 -3.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,079	1,083	1,331	-0.4 -18.9
Federal Government	394	248	421	58.9 -6.4
State Government	186	191	217	-2.6 -14.3
Local Government	499	644	693	-22.5 -28.0
Local Education	132	195	222	-32.3 -40.5
UNCLASSIFIED	878	706	871	24.4 0.8

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,197	2,142	1,620	2.6 35.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	691	581	432	18.9 60.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	364	330	280	10.3 30.0
Construction	278	236	215	17.8 29.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,525	1,524	1,009	0.1 51.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	345	346	339	-0.3 1.8
Financial Activities	106	93	72	14.0 47.2
Professional & Business Serv.	528	582	191	-9.3 176.4
Educational & Health Services	132	148	147	-10.8 -10.2
Leisure & Hospitality	93	106	167	-12.3 -44.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	246	228	261	7.9 -5.7
UNCLASSIFIED	62	60	70	3.3 -11.4

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,132	1,170	1,605	-3.2 -29.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	373	344	451	8.4 -17.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	337	338	489	-0.3 -31.1
Construction	238	209	278	13.9 -14.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	701	762	953	-8.0 -26.4
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	184	220	294	-16.4 -37.4
Financial Activities	57	70	100	-18.6 -43.0
Professional & Business Serv.	222	169	166	31.4 33.7
Educational & Health Services	106	141	167	-24.8 -36.5
Leisure & Hospitality	86	97	153	-11.3 -43.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	57	44	124	29.5 -54.0
UNCLASSIFIED	37	26	39	42.3 -5.1



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