

TRENDS

Local Jobs and Payroll in Wyoming in Third Quarter 2014: Nearly Half of New Jobs Are in Construction

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The purpose of this article is to illustrate and describe employment and payroll changes between third quarter 2013 and third quarter 2014. These economic changes help gauge the overall strength of Wyoming’s economy and identify the fastest and slowest growing sectors and geographic areas.

Total unemployment insurance (UI) covered payroll increased by \$196.9 million (6.3%) in third quarter 2014. Employment rose by 5,219 jobs (1.8%) and average weekly wage increased by \$37 (4.4%). In third quarter, employment (1.8% compared to 0.9%), total wages (6.3% compared to 4.0%), and average weekly wage (4.4% compared to 3.0%; see Table 1) all grew faster than their five year averages. Nearly half (2,401, or 46.0%) of the jobs added in third quarter were in the construction sector. In terms of dollars, UI covered payroll represents approximately 91.5% of all wage and salary disbursements and 43.8% of personal income in the state (U.S. Bureau

of Economic Analysis, 2014). Analysts have noted that “minerals related employment is one of the key predictors of sales and use tax revenue” in Wyoming (CREG 2010).

Despite the recent growth, overall employment remained approximately 2,950 jobs (1.0%) below its third quarter 2008 level. It appears that the state is getting close to making up all the job losses of 2009 and 2010.

The covered payroll and employment data in this article are tabulated by place of work, in contrast to the labor

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program counts people as unemployed by place of residence. If individuals who live in Wyoming and work in Colorado lose their jobs, they could be counted among Wyoming’s unemployed and it is possible that the unemployment rate may rise more rapidly than job losses in Wyoming would suggest. ... page 11**
- **Initial unemployment insurance claims in natural resources & mining increased 32.7% from January 2015 and 264.9% from February 2014. ... page 26**

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force estimates (see page 25) which are a measure of employed and unemployed persons by place of residence. Also, the employment data presented in this article represent a count of jobs, not persons. When individuals work more than one job, each job is counted separately. Finally, job growth (or decline) is stated in terms of net change. The Quarterly Turnover Statistics by Industry table (see page 20) presents alternative measures of job gains and losses using the same data sources and calculated to describe the components of change.

Figure 1 shows Wyoming wage & salary employment by covered/non-covered status. Approximately 92% of wage & salary jobs in the state are covered by state unemployment insurance, while 2.6% of jobs are covered by federal unemployment insurance, and 0.9% are covered by unemployment insurance administered by the railroad retirement board. There are several categories of non-covered jobs, and together they account for approximately 5% of wage & salary jobs in the state. Some

Table 1: Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2010 (2010Q3) to Third Quarter 2014 (2014Q3)

	Average Monthly Employment Percentage Change Over the Previous		Total Wages Percentage Change Over the Previous		Average Weekly Wage Percentage Change Over the Previous	
	Year	Quarter	Year	Quarter	Year	Quarter
2010Q3	0.0	1.9	4.8	2.3	4.8	0.3
2011Q3	1.4	2.6	6.5	4.1	5.0	1.5
2012Q3	0.7	1.1	0.2	-0.5	-0.5	-1.5
2013Q3	0.5	1.4	1.9	0.8	1.4	-0.6
2014Q3 ^a	1.8	1.5	6.3	2.2	4.4	0.7
Five-Year Average for Q3	0.9	1.7	4.0	1.8	3.0	0.1

^aPreliminary.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between Research & Planning and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Extract date: January 2015.

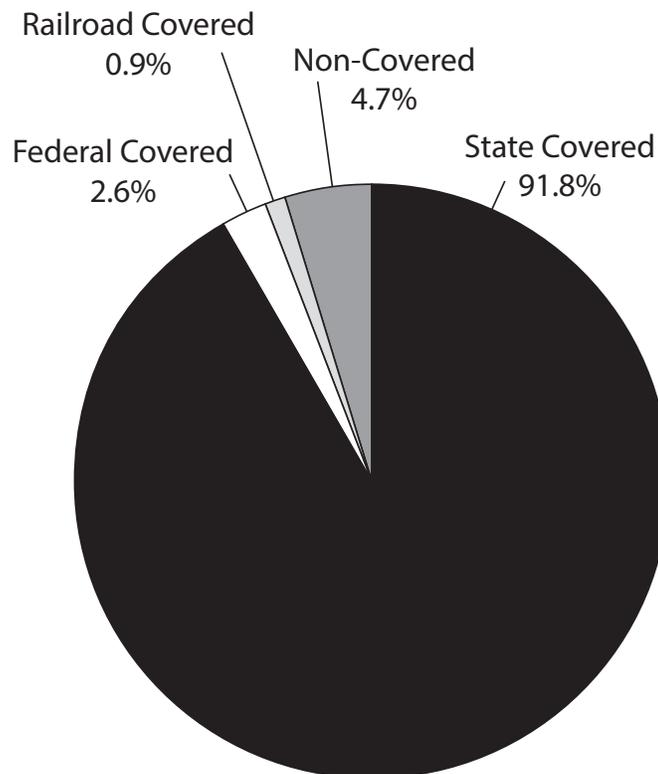


Figure 1: Wyoming Wage & Salary Employment by Covered/Non-Covered Status, March 2011

Table 2: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2005 (2005Q3) to Third Quarter 2014 (2014Q3)

	Average Monthly Employment	Total Wages
2005Q3	2.7	11.7
2005Q4	3.4	10.1
2006Q1	5.1	15.1
2006Q2	5.0	15.5
2006Q3	4.6	14.8
2006Q4	5.1	17.1
2007Q1	4.8	14.5
2007Q2	3.9	12.4
2007Q3	3.7	8.0
2007Q4	3.8	11.3
2008Q1	3.6	10.6
2008Q2	3.1	8.7
2008Q3	3.4	10.1
2008Q4	2.4	6.8
2009Q1	-1.0	-1.2
2009Q2	-3.4	-5.0
2009Q3	-5.3	-8.4
2009Q4	-6.3	-8.4
2010Q1	-4.7	-4.9
2010Q2	-1.7	1.1
2010Q3	0.0	4.8
2010Q4	1.1	6.0
2011Q1	1.1	5.4
2011Q2	0.8	4.7
2011Q3	1.4	6.5
2011Q4	2.0	2.5
2012Q1	2.5	8.0
2012Q2	2.2	4.8
2012Q3	0.7	0.2
2012Q4	0.3	4.1
2013Q1	0.3	1.1
2013Q2	0.2	0.6
2013Q3	0.5	1.9
2013Q4	0.6	1.5
2014Q1	1.2	3.3
2014Q2	1.8	4.9
2014Q3 ^a	1.8	6.3

^aPreliminary.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between Research & Planning and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Extract date: January 2015.

examples of non-covered employment include elected officials, students working at educational institutions, employees of churches, and workers at small non-profit organizations.

In third quarter 2014, total payroll increased 6.3%, which was its fastest growth since first quarter 2012 (see Figure 2). The largest contributors to total payroll growth were construction (\$48.9 million, or 16.9%) and mining (including oil & gas; \$36.2 million, or 6.6%). Table 2 shows that job growth, at 1.8% in both second and third quarters, was much better than growth in the six previous quarters.

Employment and Wages by County

Employment rose in 15 counties, fell in seven counties, and was unchanged in Platte County (see Table 3, page 6). Total payroll increased in 21 counties and fell in two.

Campbell County added 1,777 jobs (6.5%) and its total payroll rose by \$41.5 million (11.2%). Strong job growth was seen in construction (nearly 700 jobs), mining (including oil & gas; more than 400 jobs), transportation & warehousing (approximately 150 jobs), and wholesale trade (nearly 100 jobs).

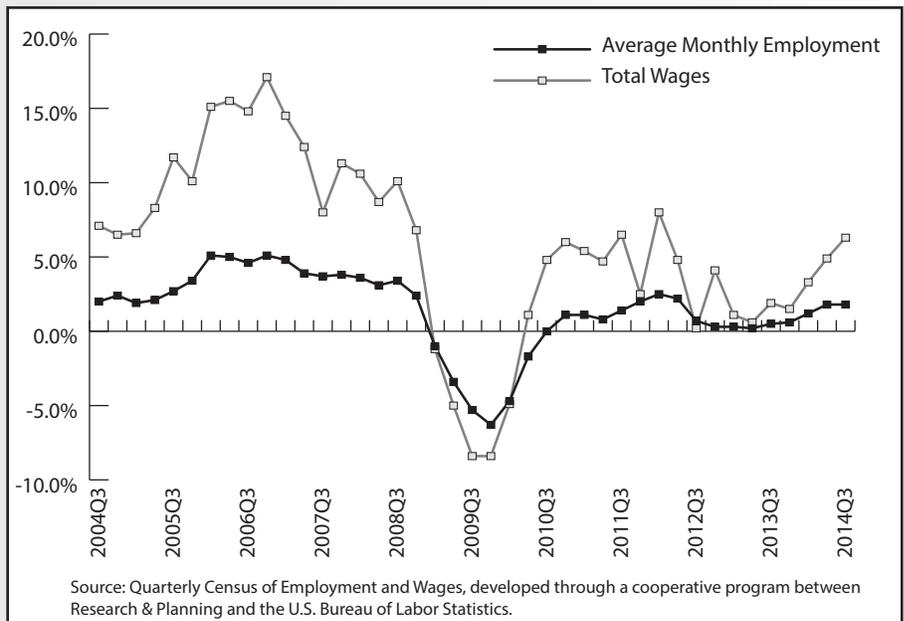


Figure 2: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages, Third Quarter 2004 (2004Q3) to Third Quarter 2014 (2014Q3)

Employment rose by 788 jobs (3.7%) in Teton County and total payroll grew by \$25.7 million (13.1%). Large job gains were seen in accommodation & food services (approximately 350 jobs), construction (more than 100 jobs), retail trade (approximately 100 jobs), local government, and professional & technical services.

Converse County added 430 jobs (7.1%) and its total payroll rose by \$10.8 million (15.7%). The construction sector grew by more than 200 jobs and mining (including oil & gas) grew by approximately 100 jobs. Modest gains were seen in manufacturing and administrative & waste services.

Sheridan County's employment rose by 390 jobs (3.0%) and its total payroll increased by \$7.7 million (6.3%). Large job gains occurred in construction (more than 200 jobs) and smaller gains occurred in local government (including public schools & colleges), accommodation & food services, and manufacturing.

Big Horn County gained 194 jobs (4.5%) and its total payroll increased by \$5.2 million (13.0%). Job growth was seen in administrative & waste services, local government (including public schools), manufacturing, other services, and mining.

Sweetwater County lost 542 jobs (-2.2%), but total payroll rose by \$6.7 million (2.0%). Employment fell in mining (including oil & gas; approximately 200 jobs), accommodation & food services (approximately 100 jobs), and administrative & waste services (nearly 100 jobs). Smaller job losses were seen in retail trade, real estate & rental & leasing, other services, and manufacturing.

Employment in Sublette County fell by 273 jobs (-5.2%) and its total payroll fell by \$1.4 million (-1.8%). Job losses were seen in construction, administrative & waste services, mining (including oil & gas), transportation & warehousing, and wholesale trade.

Fremont County lost 171 jobs (-1.0%) and its total payroll decreased by \$0.2 million (-0.1%). Mining employment (including oil & gas) fell by approximately 100 jobs, and smaller job losses were seen in state government, retail trade, health care & social assistance, and accommodation & food services.

Natrona County added 835 jobs (2.0%) and its total payroll rose by \$44.1 million (8.9%). The largest job gains occurred in mining (including oil & gas; 393 jobs, or 9.7%), construction (291 jobs, or 8.8%), and transportation & warehousing (119 jobs, or 9.7%). Growth was also seen in manufacturing (98 jobs, or 5.7%), retail trade (72 jobs, or 1.5%), and health care & social assistance (70 jobs, or 1.2%). Employment fell in other services (-165 jobs, or -8.8%) and accommodation & food services (-108 jobs, or -2.5%).

Laramie County's employment increased by 633 jobs (1.4%) and its total payroll grew by \$14.3 million (3.0%). Sizeable job gains were seen in transportation & warehousing (495 jobs, or 19.5%), accommodation & food services (286 jobs, or 6.5%), and mining (including oil & gas; 211 jobs, or 76.7%). Employment fell in retail trade (-253 jobs, or -4.4%), construction (-230 jobs, or -6.1%), and other services (-106 jobs, or -7.5%).

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Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by County, 2013 and 2014^a

County	Average Monthly Employment			Total Payroll			Average Weekly Wage					
	Third Quarter 2013	Third Quarter 2014	Change n %	Third Quarter 2013	Third Quarter 2014	Change \$	Third Quarter 2013	Third Quarter 2014	Change \$ %			
Total	285,726	290,945	5,219	1.8	\$3,119,244,931	\$3,316,104,524	\$196,859,593	6.3	\$840	\$877	\$37	4.4
Albany	15,282	15,363	81	0.5	\$141,102,416	\$145,323,497	\$4,221,081	3.0	\$710	\$728	\$18	2.5
Big Horn	4,346	4,540	194	4.5	39,550,871	44,711,295	5,160,424	13.0	700	758	58	8.3
Campbell	27,156	28,933	1,777	6.5	371,814,972	413,336,348	41,521,376	11.2	1,053	1,099	46	4.4
Carbon	7,339	7,397	58	0.8	76,587,253	80,104,033	3,516,780	4.6	803	833	30	3.7
Converse	6,027	6,457	430	7.1	68,406,429	79,177,374	10,770,945	15.7	873	943	70	8.0
Crook	2,317	2,405	88	3.8	22,085,044	23,114,007	1,028,963	4.7	733	739	6	0.8
Fremont	16,733	16,562	-171	-1.0	163,384,876	163,199,902	-184,974	-0.1	751	758	7	0.9
Goshen	4,460	4,459	-1	0.0	36,431,712	37,602,866	1,171,154	3.2	628	649	21	3.3
Hot Springs	2,188	2,117	-71	-3.2	18,933,645	19,187,595	253,950	1.3	666	697	31	4.7
Johnson	3,509	3,538	29	0.8	29,709,571	32,526,440	2,816,869	9.5	651	707	56	8.6
Laramie	45,675	46,308	633	1.4	483,366,394	497,656,760	14,290,366	3.0	814	827	13	1.6
Lincoln	5,718	5,798	80	1.4	57,332,792	59,332,842	2,000,050	3.5	771	787	16	2.1
Natrona	41,993	42,828	835	2.0	496,580,723	540,642,479	44,061,756	8.9	910	971	61	6.7
Niobrara	924	923	-1	-0.1	7,230,352	7,315,395	85,043	1.2	602	610	8	1.3
Park	15,117	15,166	49	0.3	138,987,537	142,648,523	3,660,986	2.6	707	724	17	2.4
Platte	3,455	3,455	0	0.0	33,498,615	36,118,035	2,619,420	7.8	746	804	58	7.8
Sheridan	13,187	13,577	390	3.0	120,984,863	128,665,799	7,680,936	6.3	706	729	23	3.3
Sublette	5,262	4,989	-273	-5.2	74,324,207	72,958,333	-1,365,874	-1.8	1,087	1,125	38	3.5
Sweetwater	24,679	24,137	-542	-2.2	337,452,552	344,169,721	6,717,169	2.0	1,052	1,097	45	4.3
Teton	21,091	21,879	788	3.7	196,417,960	222,118,576	25,700,616	13.1	716	781	65	9.1
Uinta	8,900	9,071	171	1.9	89,381,693	92,091,546	2,709,853	3.0	773	781	8	1.0
Washakie	3,891	3,813	-78	-2.0	36,896,117	37,598,934	702,817	1.9	729	759	30	4.1
Weston	2,296	2,297	1	0.0	20,355,118	21,205,549	850,431	4.2	682	710	28	4.1
Nonclassified ^b	4,180	4,932	752	18.0	58,429,219	75,298,675	16,869,456	28.9	1,075	1,174	99	9.2

^aPreliminary.^bThe employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between Research & Planning and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Extract date: January 2015.

(Text continued from page 5)

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

At the statewide level, almost half of the new jobs (46%) were found in the construction sector (see Table 4, page 8). Strong growth was also seen in mining (including oil & gas), transportation & warehousing, local government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals), accommodation & food services, and manufacturing. Employment fell in other services, retail trade, and federal government.

Construction added 2,401 jobs (10.2%) and its total payroll rose by \$48.9 million (16.9%). Employment fell slightly in construction of buildings, but increased rapidly in heavy & civil engineering construction (approximately 1,800 jobs) and specialty trade contractors (more than 600 jobs). It appears that much of the growth was concentrated in oil & gas pipeline and related structures construction.

Mining gained 817 jobs (3.1%) and its total payroll increased by \$36.2 million (6.6%). Employment remained stable in oil & gas extraction and mining (except oil & gas). Support activities for mining, which includes oil & gas well drilling and oil & gas field services added more than 800 jobs.

Employment rose by 753 jobs (7.6%) in transportation & warehousing and its total payroll grew by \$13.4 million (11.2%). Job losses in air transportation (approximately 150 jobs) were more than offset by job gains in warehousing & storage (approximately 350 jobs), support

activities for transportation (approximately 200 jobs), and truck transportation (nearly 200 jobs). Smaller job gains were seen in couriers & messengers, transit & ground passenger transportation, and pipeline transportation.

Local government added 615 jobs (1.5%) and its total payroll rose by \$17.6 million (4.2%). Education (including public school districts and community colleges) gained 733 jobs (4.1%) and hospitals gained 109 jobs (1.6%). Employment fell in public administration (including cities, towns, & counties).

Accommodation & food services gained 414 jobs (1.1%) and its total payroll increased by \$9.7 million (5.8%). Most of the job gains occurred in accommodation (more than 300 jobs) while employment in food services & drinking places increased only modestly.

Manufacturing employment grew by 336 jobs (3.5%) and its total payroll grew by \$10.8 million (8.0%). Large job gains were seen in petroleum & coal products manufacturing (more than 100 jobs), fabricated metal product manufacturing (approximately 150 jobs), and computer & electronic product manufacturing (more than 100 jobs).

Other services lost 463 jobs (-5.5%) and its total payroll fell by \$5.2 million (-6.9%). Employment fell by nearly 300 jobs in repair & maintenance, nearly 100 jobs in personal & laundry services, and nearly 100 jobs in membership associations & organizations.

Retail trade employment fell by 173 jobs (-0.6%), but its total payroll increased by

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Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter by Industry, 2013 and 2014^a

NAICS ^b Title	Average Monthly Employment			Total Payroll			Average Weekly Wage					
	Third Quarter		Change	Third Quarter		Change	Third Quarter		Change			
	2013	2014	n %	2013	2014	\$ %	2013	2014	\$ %			
Total, All Industries	285,726	290,945	5,219	1.8	\$3,119,244,931	\$3,316,104,524	\$196,859,593	6.3	\$840	\$877	\$37	4.4
Total Private	223,146	227,913	4,767	2.1	\$2,402,829,171	\$2,572,809,996	\$169,980,825	7.1	\$828	\$868	\$40	4.8
Agriculture	2,798	2,789	-9	-0.3	20,455,240	21,842,663	1,387,423	6.8	562	602	40	7.1
Mining	26,757	27,574	817	3.1	551,650,116	587,853,936	36,203,820	6.6	1,586	1,640	54	3.4
Utilities	2,489	2,510	21	0.8	50,513,360	52,832,501	2,319,141	4.6	1,561	1,619	58	3.7
Construction	23,583	25,984	2,401	10.2	289,007,756	337,932,748	48,924,992	16.9	943	1,000	57	6.0
Manufacturing	9,574	9,910	336	3.5	134,753,423	145,591,129	10,837,706	8.0	1,083	1,130	47	4.3
Wholesale Trade	9,312	9,577	265	2.8	130,987,048	140,627,629	9,640,581	7.4	1,082	1,130	48	4.4
Retail Trade	30,795	30,622	-173	-0.6	204,879,209	209,896,081	5,016,872	2.4	512	527	15	2.9
Transportation & Warehousing	9,929	10,682	753	7.6	119,928,379	133,334,308	13,405,929	11.2	929	960	31	3.3
Information	3,825	3,803	-22	-0.6	39,662,525	40,782,004	1,119,479	2.8	798	825	27	3.4
Finance & Insurance	6,840	6,759	-81	-1.2	85,475,723	88,067,510	2,591,787	3.0	961	1,002	41	4.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,514	4,599	85	1.9	48,985,656	52,495,837	3,510,181	7.2	835	878	43	5.1
Professional & Technical Services	9,257	9,553	296	3.2	128,753,416	147,626,578	18,873,162	14.7	1,070	1,189	119	11.1
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	1,041	1,028	-13	-1.2	21,707,729	22,985,769	1,278,040	5.9	1,604	1,720	116	7.2
Administrative & Waste Services	8,607	8,638	31	0.4	66,286,953	67,668,593	1,381,640	2.1	592	603	11	1.9
Educational Services	1,694	1,650	-44	-2.6	12,959,198	13,166,392	207,194	1.6	588	614	26	4.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	23,957	23,972	15	0.1	237,005,895	243,887,080	6,881,185	2.9	761	783	22	2.9
Ambulatory Health Care Services	9,507	9,717	210	2.2	129,480,772	135,993,950	6,513,178	5.0	1,048	1,077	29	2.8
Hospitals	3,025	2,968	-57	-1.9	38,615,278	38,226,161	-389,117	-1.0	982	991	9	0.9
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4,571	4,552	-19	-0.4	33,014,620	33,394,640	380,020	1.2	556	564	8	1.4
Social Assistance	6,854	6,735	-119	-1.7	35,895,225	36,272,329	377,104	1.1	403	414	11	2.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,645	3,782	137	3.8	18,267,230	20,100,250	1,833,020	10.0	386	409	23	6.0
Accommodation & Food Services	36,113	36,527	414	1.1	167,064,676	176,782,265	9,717,589	5.8	356	372	16	4.5
Other Services	8,416	7,953	-463	-5.5	74,485,639	69,336,723	-5,148,916	-6.9	681	671	-10	-1.5
Total Government	62,579	63,032	453	0.7	\$716,415,760	\$743,294,528	\$26,878,768	3.8	\$881	\$907	\$26	3.0
Federal Government	7,979	7,884	-95	-1.2	119,355,143	126,068,564	6,713,421	5.6	1,151	1,230	79	6.9
State Government	13,432	13,364	-68	-0.5	174,287,731	176,866,480	2,578,749	1.5	998	1,018	20	2.0
State Government Education	3,782	3,862	80	2.1	47,397,251	48,635,930	1,238,679	2.6	964	969	5	0.5
Local Government	41,169	41,784	615	1.5	422,772,886	440,359,484	17,586,598	4.2	790	811	21	2.7
Local Government Education	17,790	18,523	733	4.1	177,912,642	188,604,098	10,691,456	6.0	769	783	14	1.8
Hospitals	7,019	7,128	109	1.6	94,752,044	99,604,494	4,852,450	5.1	1,038	1,075	36	3.5

^aPreliminary.^bNorth American Industry Classification System.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, developed through a cooperative program between Research & Planning and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Extract date: January 2015.

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\$5.0 million (2.4%). Job losses in nonstore retailers, general merchandise stores, and gasoline stations were partially offset by job gains in motor vehicle & parts dealers, miscellaneous store retailers, and health & personal care stores.

Federal government lost 95 jobs (-1.2%), but its total payroll increased by \$6.7 million (5.6%). Employment fell in administration of environmental quality programs.

In summary, Wyoming’s economy continued to grow in the third quarter, with the construction sector accounting for nearly half of all new jobs. Large job gains were also seen in mining (including oil & gas), transportation & warehousing, local government (including public schools, colleges, & hospitals), accommodation &

food services, and manufacturing. While employment grew in about two-thirds of Wyoming’s counties, most of the job gains occurred in Campbell, Natrona, Teton, Laramie, and Converse counties.

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Total Wages, Average Monthly Employment, and Average Monthly Wage Changes for Wyoming by Year/Quarter: 2005Q4 to 2014Q4

Year/Quarter	Total Wages	% Change	Avg. Monthly Employment	% Change	Avg. Monthly Wage	% Change
2005/4	\$2,283,976,604		259,256		\$2,936.58	
2006/4	\$2,674,775,271	17.1%	270,498	4.3%	\$3,296.11	12.2%
2006/1	\$2,206,882,734		254,302		\$2,892.73	
2007/1	\$2,528,871,913	14.6%	266,599	4.8%	\$3,161.89	9.3%
2006/2	\$2,389,394,775		268,726		\$2,963.86	
2007/2	\$2,679,641,341	12.1%	278,792	3.7%	\$3,203.87	8.1%
2006/3	\$2,511,603,105		274,060		\$3,054.81	
2007/3	\$2,712,325,140	8.0%	284,317	3.7%	\$3,179.93	4.1%
2006/4	\$2,674,775,271		270,498		\$3,296.11	
2007/4	\$2,976,397,551	11.3%	280,888	3.8%	\$3,532.13	7.2%
2007/1	\$2,528,871,913		266,599		\$3,161.89	
2008/1	\$2,798,237,273	10.7%	276,195	3.6%	\$3,377.13	6.8%
2007/2	\$2,679,641,341		278,792		\$3,203.87	
2008/2	\$2,918,008,721	8.9%	287,780	3.2%	\$3,379.91	5.5%
2007/3	\$2,712,325,140		284,317		\$3,179.93	
2008/3	\$2,985,771,294	10.1%	293,895	3.4%	\$3,386.44	6.5%
2007/4	\$2,976,397,551		280,888		\$3,532.13	
2008/4	\$3,177,223,682	6.7%	287,478	2.3%	\$3,684.02	4.3%

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(Table continued from page 9)

Total Wages, Average Monthly Employment, and Average Monthly Wage Changes for Wyoming by Year/Quarter: 2005Q4 to 2014Q4

Year/Quarter	Total Wages	% Change	Avg. Monthly Employment	% Change	Avg. Monthly Wage	% Change
2008/1	\$2,798,237,273		276,195		\$3,377.13	
2009/1	\$2,764,364,307	-1.2%	273,471	-1.0%	\$3,369.48	-0.2%
2008/2	\$2,918,008,721		287,780		\$3,379.91	
2009/2	\$2,773,191,493	-5.0%	277,897	-3.4%	\$3,326.40	-1.6%
2008/3	\$2,985,771,294		293,895		\$3,386.44	
2009/3	\$2,736,056,780	-8.4%	278,234	-5.3%	\$3,277.88	-3.2%
2008/4	\$3,177,223,682		287,478		\$3,684.02	
2009/4	\$2,911,594,084	-8.4%	269,439	-6.3%	\$3,602.04	-2.2%
2009/1	\$2,764,364,307		273,471		\$3,369.48	
2010/1	\$2,627,558,836	-4.9%	260,726	-4.7%	\$3,359.29	-0.3%
2009/2	\$2,773,191,493		277,897		\$3,326.40	
2010/2	\$2,802,848,365	1.1%	273,044	-1.7%	\$3,421.73	2.9%
2009/3	\$2,736,056,780		278,234		\$3,277.88	
2010/3	\$2,866,694,334	4.8%	279,429	0.4%	\$3,419.71	4.3%
2009/4	\$2,911,594,084		269,439		\$3,602.04	
2010/4	\$3,087,069,661	6.0%	272,511	1.1%	\$3,776.08	4.8%
2010/1	\$2,627,558,836		260,726		\$3,359.29	
2011/1	\$2,769,072,169	5.4%	263,558	1.1%	\$3,502.17	4.3%
2010/2	\$2,802,848,365		273,044		\$3,421.73	
2011/2	\$2,933,492,659	4.7%	275,169	0.8%	\$3,553.56	3.9%
2010/3	\$2,866,694,334		279,429		\$3,419.71	
2011/3	\$3,053,914,162	6.5%	282,231	1.0%	\$3,606.87	5.5%
2010/4	\$3,087,069,661		272,511		\$3,776.08	
2011/4	\$3,165,745,021	2.5%	278,015	2.0%	\$3,795.65	0.5%
2011/1	\$2,769,072,169		263,558		\$3,502.17	
2012/1	\$2,991,246,352	8.0%	270,073	2.5%	\$3,691.90	5.4%
2011/2	\$2,933,492,659		275,169		\$3,553.56	
2012/2	\$3,074,207,136	4.8%	281,192	2.2%	\$3,644.26	2.6%
2011/3	\$3,053,914,162		282,231		\$3,606.87	
2012/3	\$3,060,122,560	0.2%	284,180	0.7%	\$3,589.42	-0.5%
2011/4	\$3,165,745,021		278,015		\$3,795.65	
2012/4	\$3,294,064,060	4.1%	278,934	0.3%	\$3,936.49	3.7%
2012/1	\$2,991,246,352		270,073		\$3,691.90	
2013/1	\$3,024,233,488	1.1%	270,881	0.3%	\$3,721.48	0.8%
2012/2	\$3,074,207,136		281,192		\$3,644.26	
2013/2	\$3,093,096,086	0.6%	281,707	0.2%	\$3,659.94	0.4%
2012/3	\$3,060,122,560		284,180		\$3,589.42	
2013/3	\$3,119,244,931	1.9%	285,726	0.5%	\$3,638.97	1.4%
2012/4	\$3,294,064,060		278,934		\$3,936.49	
2013/4	\$3,344,359,716	1.5%	280,701	0.6%	\$3,971.44	0.9%
2013/1	\$3,024,233,488		270,881		\$3,721.48	
2014/1	\$3,124,158,426	3.3%	274,050	1.2%	\$3,799.99	2.1%
2013/2	\$3,093,096,086		281,707		\$3,659.94	
2014/2	\$3,243,373,986	4.9%	286,669	1.8%	\$3,771.33	3.0%
2013/3	\$3,119,244,931		285,726		\$3,638.97	
2014/3	\$3,317,475,865	6.4%	291,299	2.0%	\$3,796.19	4.3%
2013/4	\$3,344,359,716		280,701		\$3,971.44	
2014/4(p)	\$3,528,773,837	5.5%	285,127	1.6%	\$4,125.38	3.9%

(p) Preliminary.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Understanding How Commuting Flows and Job Losses in Other States Could Affect Wyoming's Unemployment Rate

by: Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs Supervisor, and David Bullard, Senior Economist

Figures by: Lynae Hammer, Office Support Specialist

What is the potential that Wyoming's unemployment rate could be affected by job losses in other states as a result of the recent decline in oil prices? The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program counts people as unemployed by place of residence. In some cases people may work in one state but live in another. For example, someone residing in Wyoming may work for an employer in Colorado. If she loses her job, she would be counted as unemployed in Wyoming even though the job was lost in Colorado. One of the important inputs in developing estimates of the number of unemployed is the statistical use of administrative data from the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program.

This article examines commuting patterns between Wyoming and several other states, and looks at those industries that employ Wyoming residents who work out of state. It outlines how unemployment insurance claims data are exchanged between states and how those data are used in developing monthly unemployment rate estimates.

In February 2015, an estimated 13,940 Wyoming residents were unemployed (4.6% of the labor force). The number of Wyoming residents commuting to work in other states is large enough to potentially have an impact on Wyoming's unemployment rate. Previous research has shown that one-third of individuals who collect Wyoming Unemployment Insurance benefits reside in other states (Harris, 2014).

Additionally, since all Wyoming Workforce Centers are required to provide reemployment services to UI claimants, regardless of where they lost their jobs, layoffs in other states could result in a greater workload for the Department of Workforce Services (Cates, 2015).

Based on individual situations, as well as the relative strength of state and local economies, Wyoming could see net outmigration, or net in-migration as conditions change. If jobs are plentiful in a border state, residents may choose to commute to work there, rather than remaining unemployed. Relative differences in state economies can be driven by changes in the national economy. Wyoming, for example, is heavily dependent on its natural resources & mining sector (including oil & gas). When commodity prices fall, this negatively affects our economy. Other states, however, may be more closely correlated with the national business cycle, and may, in fact, benefit from lower oil prices.

Research of this kind would not be possible without the cooperation of many states. Wyoming has memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with 11 states (Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah; see Map, page 12). We sincerely thank them for sharing their data and acknowledge their assistance.

The figures in this article were developed by matching individuals

(based on their social security number) with their employers (based on Unemployment Insurance number). Some individuals could be included as working in multiple states, or as having multiple employers in the same state. Wyoming residents are defined as “individuals [with] a Wyoming-issued driver’s license or at least four quarters of work history in Wyoming” (Jones, 2002).

Commuting Patterns

Any analysis of labor market trends should take into account what happens beyond Wyoming’s borders. As one labor market analyst noted, “In a mobile environment, labor markets do not respect county or state boundaries” (Leonard 2010).

This section includes an analysis of commuting patterns into border and non-border partner states, or those states with labor market information (LMI) offices with which R&P has data-sharing agreements. The most recent four quarters of comprehensive data were used for this analysis: 2012Q3 to 2013Q2 for border states,

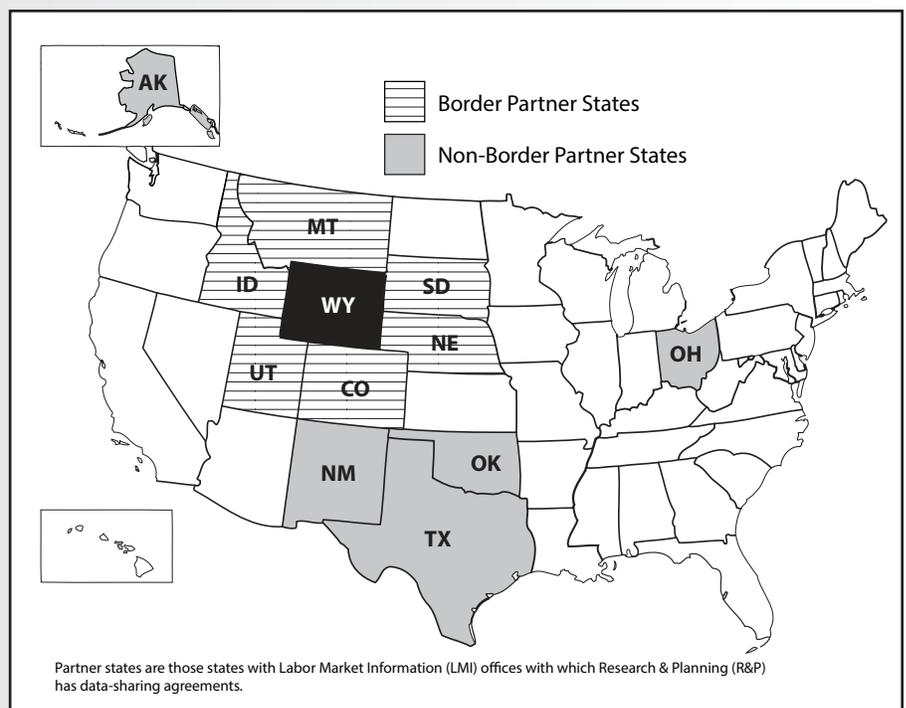
and 2013Q2 to 2014Q1 for non-border states. A comprehensive table with interstate commuting data from 2010Q1 to 2014Q1 is available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/commute.htm>.

Figure 1 (see page 13) shows the number of Wyoming residents who commute into border states. By far, the largest number work in Colorado. From third quarter 2012 to second quarter 2013, this number ranged from 7,772 to 8,447. Those who are familiar with Wyoming’s geography should not be surprised by these results. Wyoming’s most populous county, Laramie County, borders Colorado and there

are many jobs within easy commuting distance in northern Colorado. For example, Fort Collins is 47 miles south of Cheyenne via Interstate 25.

As Figure 1 shows, Utah ranks a distant second as a commuting destination for Wyoming residents. Approximately 4,300 people commuted from Wyoming to Utah in second quarter 2013. Salt Lake City is located 82 miles from Evanston, and Interstate 80 winds through several canyons along the way, making commuting more challenging, especially in the winter.

Nearly as many



Map: Labor Market Information (LMI) Offices in States with Which Wyoming Has Data-Sharing Agreements

Wyoming residents commute to Montana as Utah (approximately 4,200 individuals in third quarter 2012). Wyoming shares a long border with Montana and the city of Sheridan is located only about 25 miles from the Montana border.

Figure 2 shows the number of Wyoming commuters into border states by industry for third quarter 2012 to second quarter 2013. Retail trade accounted for the largest number of commuters (more than 2,500 in each quarter). It

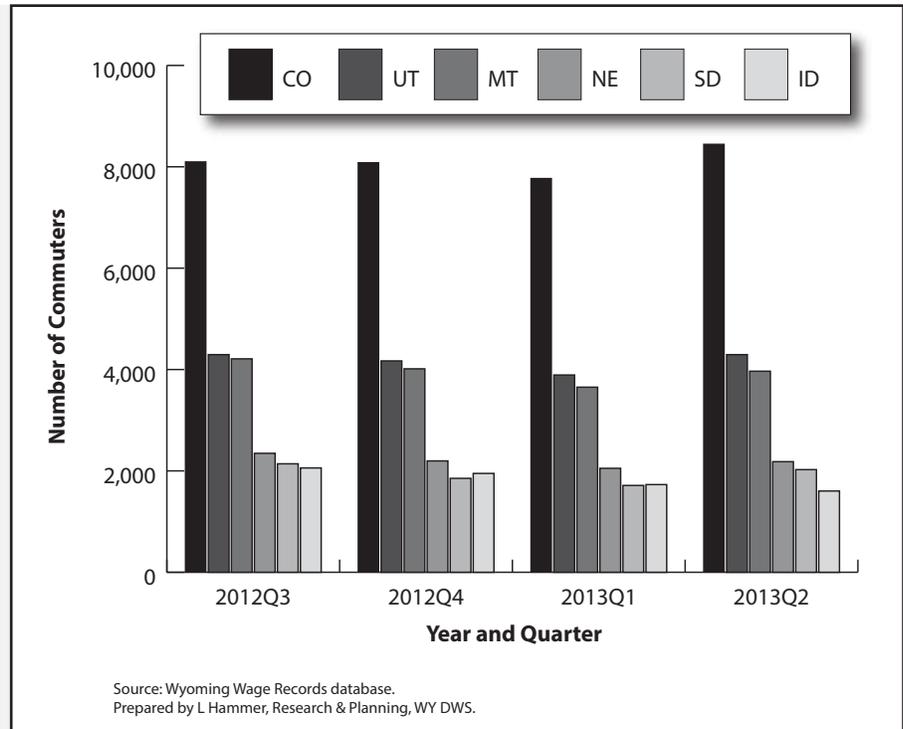


Figure 1: Wyoming Commuters into Border States, 2012Q3-2013Q2

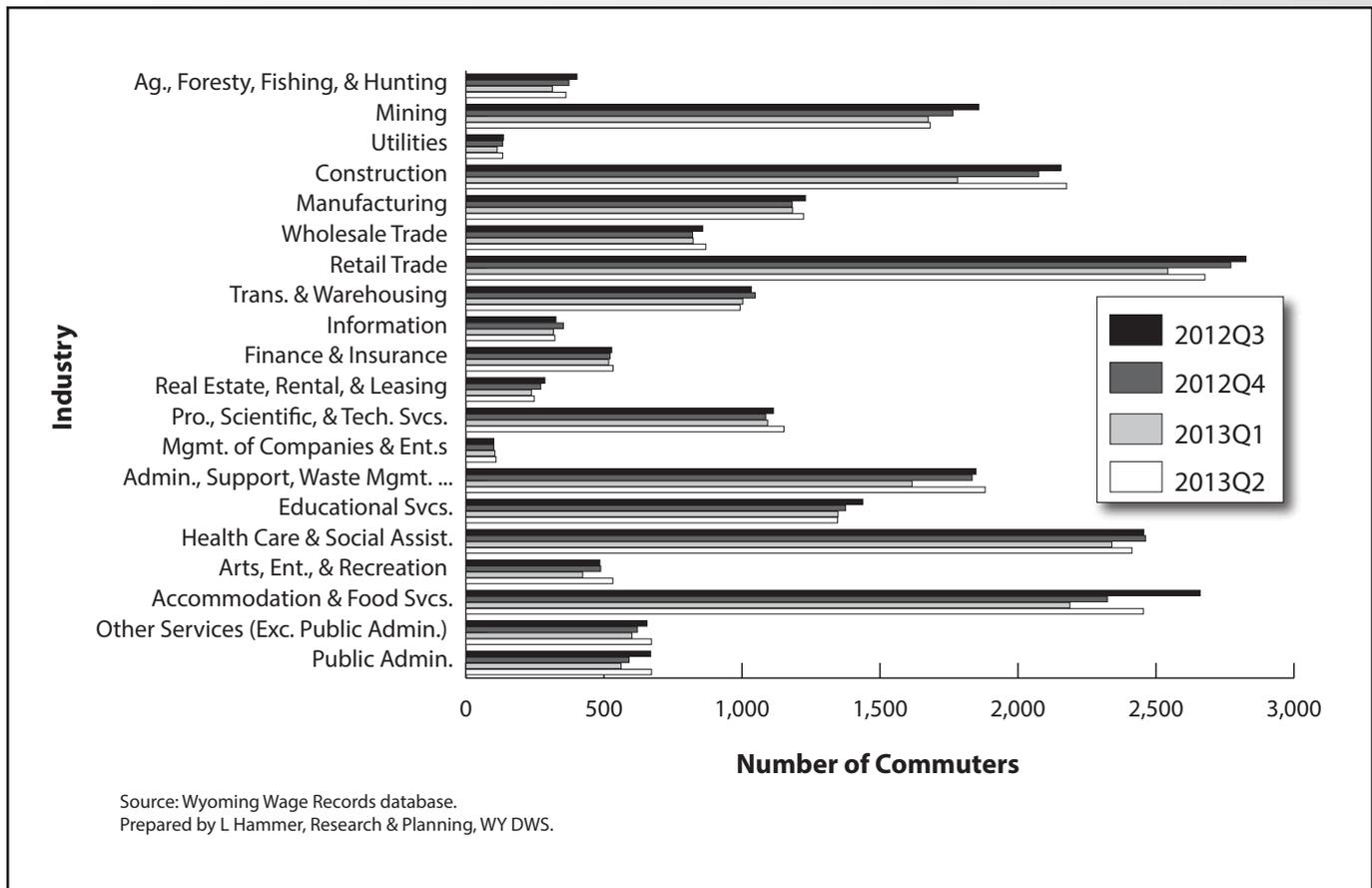


Figure 2: Wyoming Commuters into Border States by Industry, 2012Q3-2013Q2

was followed by accommodation & food services (approximately 2,500), health care & social assistance (nearly 2,500), and construction (approximately 2,000). Retail trade, accommodation & food services, and health care & social assistance are some of the largest industries in Wyoming as well. More than 1,500 Wyoming residents commuted to mining (including oil & gas) jobs in other states. With the recent decline in oil prices, it would not be surprising if some of those workers in the oil & gas sector would be laid off.

The number of Wyoming commuters into selected non-border states is illustrated in Figure 3 (see page 15). The data in this figure are limited by the fact that Wyoming does not have data sharing agreements with every state. In addition to border states, data are currently available for Alaska, Ohio, New Mexico, and Texas. Given those limitations, Texas stands out as a destination for Wyoming commuters, with approximately 3,400 individuals working there. It would seem likely that this is related to the sheer size of Texas (2014 estimated population of 27 million; US Census Bureau, 2014) as compared to many other states. Research & Planning has added a table to its website showing the number of commuters by state and by industry for each quarter from 2010 to 2014 (<http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/commute/2014/table.htm>). The table is further broken out by whether workers held Wyoming Drivers' licenses (Research & Planning, 2015). That table shows that of the approximately 3,500 Wyoming residents working in Texas, 594 worked in mining and 419 worked in construction in first quarter 2014.

Mining and construction are two industries in which substantial job losses were seen in 2009-2010. In contrast to

those workers holding Wyoming drivers' licenses working in other states, there were also a substantial number of people residing in other states who worked in Wyoming, and between 2005 and 2012, 60% of those who left Wyoming's labor market were nonresidents (Harris, 2014). Part of the exodus of nonresidents may have been related to the rapid expansion and contraction of the coalbed methane industry during the early 2000's in Wyoming. For an in-depth analysis of Wyoming residents and use of the Unemployment Insurance system, please see <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends/1214/toc.htm>.

Figure 4 (see page 15) shows the industries where Wyoming commuters are working in selected non-border states. Comparing Figure 4 to Figure 2 reveals a quite different pattern of employment by industry for border state and non-border state commuters. In non-border states, the largest number of commuters was found working in mining (including oil & gas; approximately 900 individuals). The high wages typical in the mining sector may help explain why workers would commute long distances. All else being equal, it is expected that lower oil prices will result in fewer jobs in the mining sector.

Approximately 600 Wyoming residents worked construction jobs in non-border states. Many construction jobs are temporary, so in order to maintain consistent employment, workers may be required to accept jobs far from home. The effect of oil prices on construction employment could be mixed. In oil-dependent states, a certain amount of construction activity is related to oil & gas development, such as building pipelines and natural gas processing plants. However, in other states, and likely the

nation as a whole, lower oil prices could boost construction activity and associated employment.

The third largest sector employing Wyoming residents in non-border states was accommodation & food services (approximately 500 individuals). Interestingly, low oil prices could boost tourist activity, and therefore cause employment to increase and possibly result in more Wyoming residents commuting to work in this sector. Lower gasoline prices not only make it less

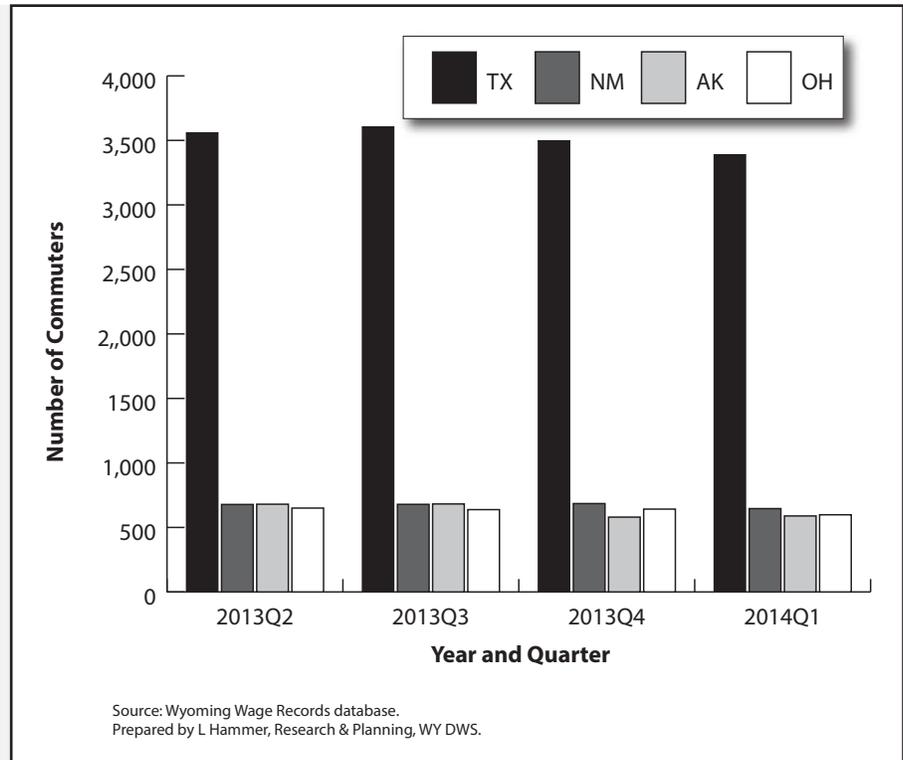


Figure 3: Wyoming Commuters into Selected Non-Border States, 2013Q2-2014Q1

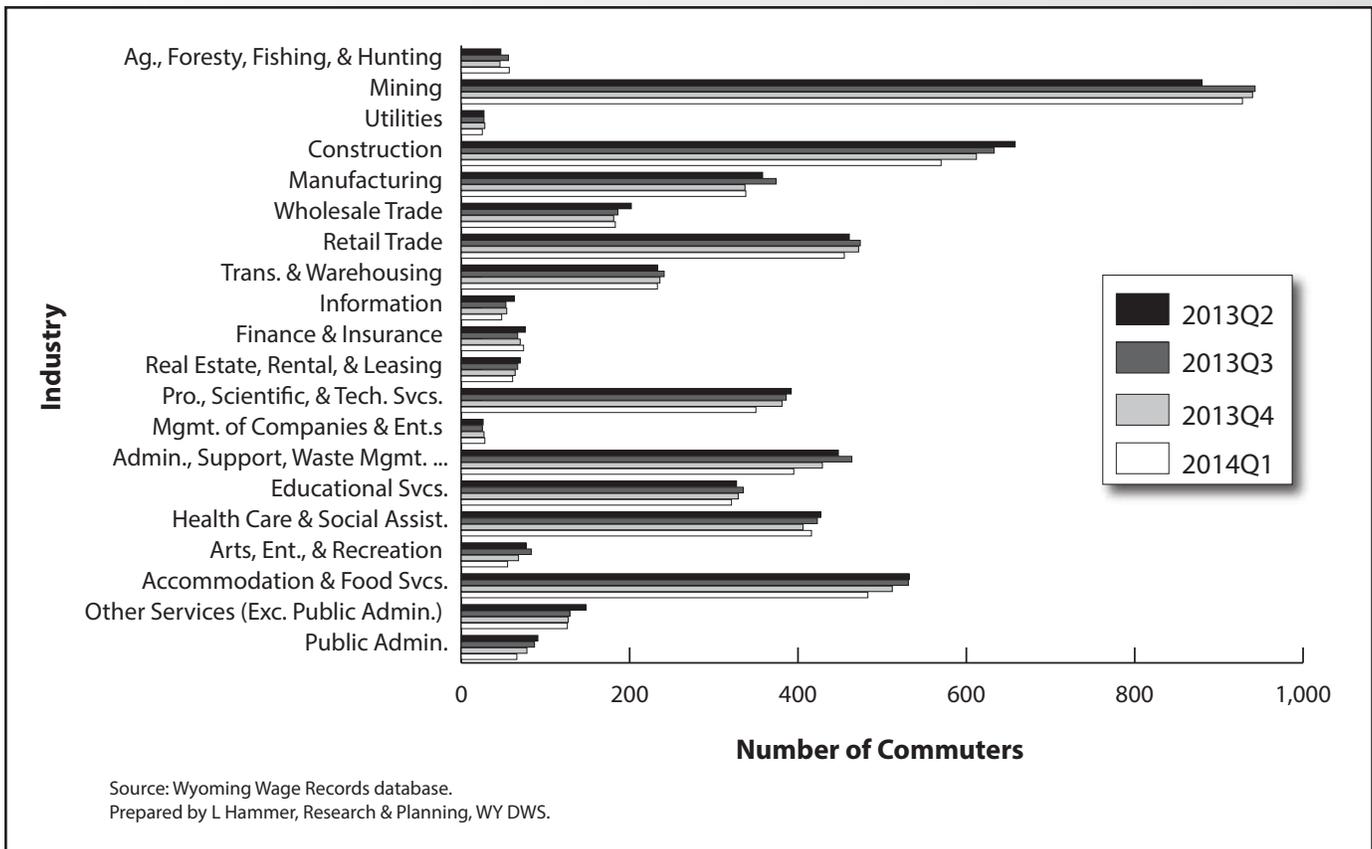


Figure 4: Wyoming Commuters into Selected Non-Border States by Industry, 2013Q2-2014Q1

expensive to travel, but they also result in lower monthly expenses for households, freeing up funds for extras, such as vacations.

Figure 5 (see page 17) provides more detail than earlier graphs. It focuses on Wyoming residents who worked in Colorado from first quarter 2010 to first quarter 2014. One noteworthy trend is that the percentage of Wyoming residents commuting to construction jobs in Colorado increased beginning in first quarter 2012. This is consistent with recent data showing that construction is one of the fastest growing sectors in Colorado. A high percentage of commuters also work in retail trade, health care & social assistance, and mining.

In contrast, Wyoming residents working in South Dakota are much more likely to be found working in accommodation & food services (see Figure 6, page 17). The Black Hills region of South Dakota, which includes such attractions as Mount Rushmore, is located near Wyoming's eastern border. The data suggest that many Wyoming residents might work seasonal jobs in South Dakota's tourism industry (both in accommodation & food services and in retail trade).

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program counts people as unemployed by place of residence. Part of the estimation process involves a series of data exchanges. Every week each state receives a file with all interstate

unemployment insurance claims for all states from the U.S. Department of Labor. Additionally, Wyoming has access to driver's license records and has data sharing agreements with other states. This gives R&P access to administrative records for people with Wyoming driver's licenses who work out of state. Due to the interstate claims we can also determine if these people become unemployed. People with ties to Wyoming may decide to return here once they become unemployed in another state. For unemployment statistics purposes these people are then counted as unemployed in Wyoming even though their job was lost in another state.

What if oil prices remain low and layoffs in the oil & gas industry continue? The data show that more than 1,500 Wyoming residents commute to mining jobs in border states, and an additional 900 residents work mining jobs in non-border states. This means that in the mining sector alone, approximately 2,400 Wyoming residents could be affected. Unless they find other jobs, these individuals could be counted among Wyoming's unemployed and it is possible that the unemployment rate may rise more rapidly than job losses in Wyoming would suggest.

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(Text continued on page 18)

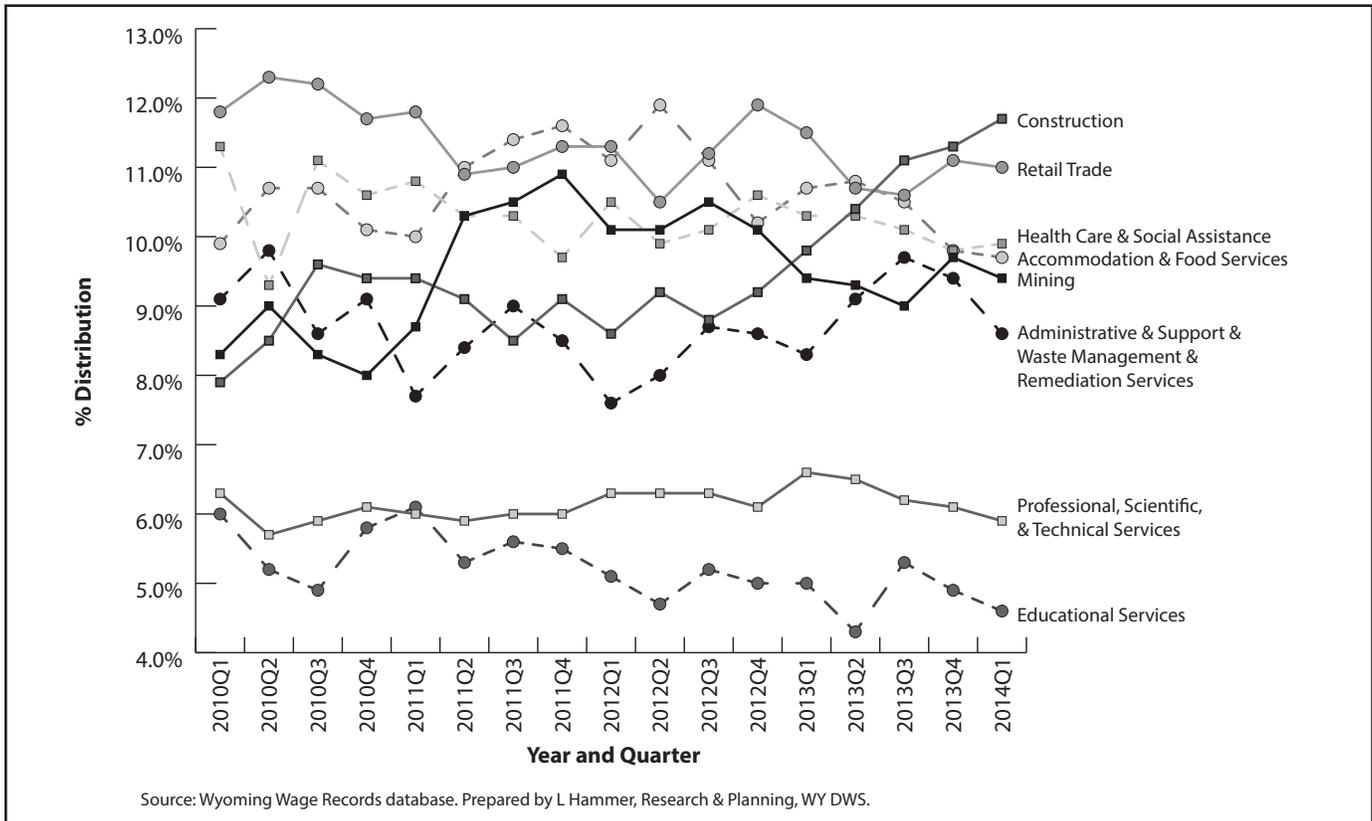


Figure 5: Workers in Colorado with a Wyoming Driver's License, Percent Distribution for Selected Industries, 2010Q1-2014Q1

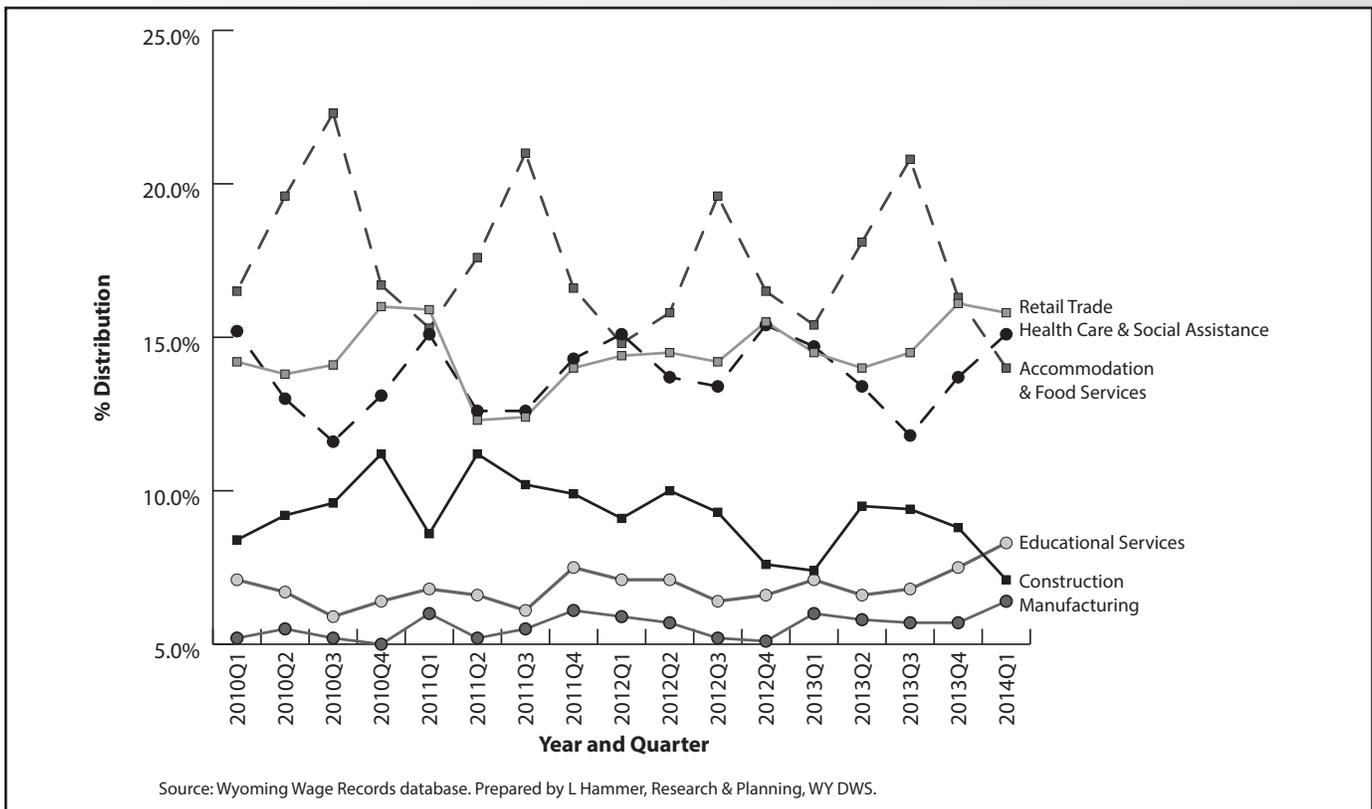


Figure 6: Workers in South Dakota with a Wyoming Driver's License, Percent Distribution for Selected Industries, 2010Q1-2014Q1

(Text continued from page 16)

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Now Online

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Report No. 1 for Wyoming: School Attendance and Employment, 2006 to 2013 **April 2015**

http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/education_we_connect/WDQI_Pub1.pdf

This new publication from Research & Planning helps answer these and other questions:

- What percentage of 2009/2010 Wyoming high school students went on to attend postsecondary school the year after graduation?
- What was the average annual wage for students who completed the 12th grade in 2009/2010 the year after completion?
- How do the earnings of Wyoming students compare to the statewide average for all people in the same age group?
- What percentage of students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) participate in the labor market during and after the 12th grade?
- What percentage of students with a VR 504 plan participate in the labor market during and after the 12th grade? How does this compare to the general student population?



Persons Working in Jobs Covered by Wyoming State Unemployment Insurance, Fourth Quarter 2014

by: Tony Glover, Workforce Information Supervisor

The number of new persons not previously found working in Wyoming increased 5.8% from 2014Q3.

The average quarterly wage for persons working one job in Wyoming during 2014Q4 was \$11,956, up from \$11,488 in 2014Q3.

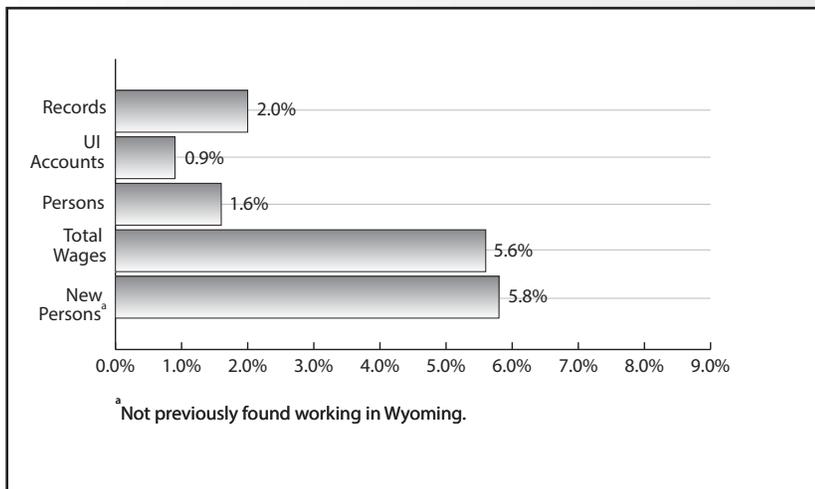


Figure 1: Percentage Change from Previous Year, Wyoming Wage Records, Fourth Quarter 2014

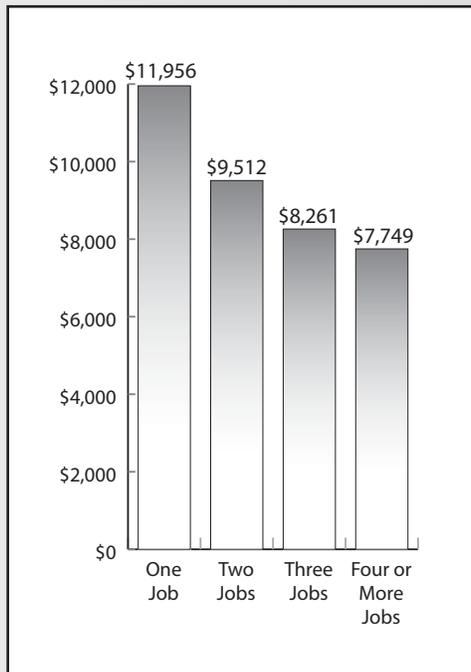


Figure 2: Mean Quarterly Wages in Wyoming by Number of Jobs, Fourth Quarter 2014

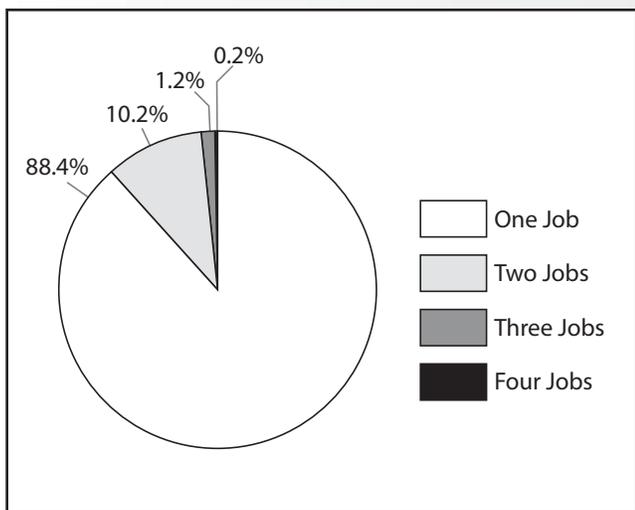


Figure 3: Percentage of Total Persons by Number of Jobs Worked in Wyoming, Fourth Quarter 2014

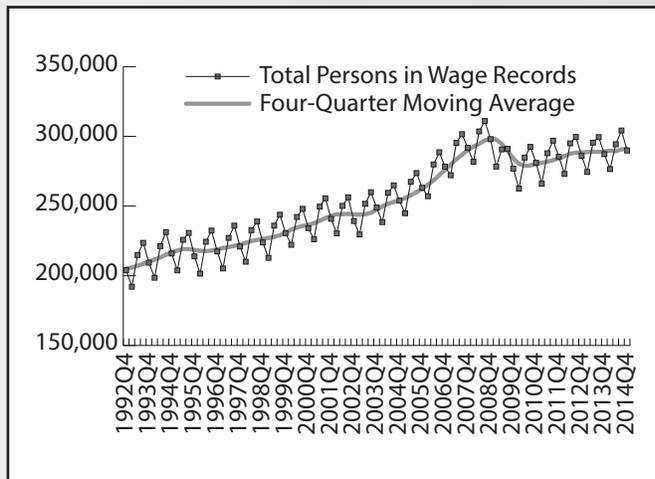


Figure 4: Running Total of Persons in Wyoming Wage Records, Fourth Quarter 1992 (1992Q4) to Fourth Quarter 2014 (2014Q4)

Quarterly Turnover Statistics by Industry, Third Quarter 2014

The turnover rate for Wyoming's retail trade industry during 2014Q3 was 47.2%, up 10.8% from 2013Q3.

Major Sector	Industry		(H)	(H)+(B)	(B)	(E)	(E)+(B)	(C)	(H+E+B+C)	Turnover Rate ^a	Change Prior Year
			Hire Only	Total Hires	Both Hire and Exit	Exit Only	Total Exits	Continuous Employment	Total		
Goods Producing	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	Transactions ^b	349	637	288	691	979	2,264	3,592	37.0	1.2
		Rates	9.7	17.7	8.0	19.2	27.3	63.0	100.0		
	Mining	Transactions	3,128	4,259	1,131	3,130	4,261	22,902	30,291	24.4	3.3
		Rates	10.3	14.1	3.7	10.3	14.1	75.6	100.0		
	Construction	Transactions	5,728	9,865	4,137	6,482	10,619	18,363	34,710	47.1	2.2
		Rates	16.5	28.4	11.9	18.7	30.6	52.9	100.0		
	Manufacturing	Transactions	1,332	1,767	435	1,082	1,517	8,650	11,499	24.8	1.8
		Rates	11.6	15.4	3.8	9.4	13.2	75.2	100.0		
	Wholesale Trade, Transp., Utilities, & Warehousing	Transactions	3,170	4,209	1,039	2,523	3,562	18,506	25,238	26.7	3.6
		Rates	12.6	16.7	4.1	10.0	14.1	73.3	100.0		
Retail Trade	Transactions	9,524	13,098	3,574	5,728	9,302	21,099	39,925	47.2	10.8	
	Rates	23.9	32.8	9.0	14.3	23.3	52.8	100.0			
Information	Transactions	444	594	150	481	631	3,851	4,926	21.8	-0.2	
	Rates	9.0	12.1	3.0	9.8	12.8	78.2	100.0			
Financial Activities	Transactions	1,231	1,585	354	1,234	1,588	9,951	12,770	22.1	0.5	
	Rates	9.6	12.4	2.8	9.7	12.4	77.9	100.0			
Professional & Business Services	Transactions	3,296	5,878	2,582	4,219	6,801	15,439	25,536	39.5	0.5	
	Rates	12.9	23.0	10.1	16.5	26.6	60.5	100.0			
Educational Services	Transactions	2,859	3,973	1,114	3,725	4,839	24,161	31,859	24.2	4.6	
	Rates	9.0	12.5	3.5	11.7	15.2	75.8	100.0			
Health Services	Transactions	3,805	4,812	1,007	4,053	5,060	28,417	37,282	23.8	1.8	
	Rates	10.2	12.9	2.7	10.9	13.6	76.2	100.0			
Leisure & Hospitality	Transactions	9,109	17,216	8,107	12,409	20,516	26,140	55,765	53.1	0.2	
	Rates	16.3	30.9	14.5	22.3	36.8	46.9	100.0			
Other Services	Transactions	1,201	1,924	723	1,384	2,107	6,647	9,955	33.2	-2.4	
	Rates	12.1	19.3	7.3	13.9	21.2	66.8	100.0			
Public Admin.	Transactions	1,273	2,253	980	2,857	3,837	18,480	23,590	21.7	1.5	
	Rates	5.4	9.6	4.2	12.1	16.3	78.3	100.0			
Unclassified	Transactions	444	700	256	80	336	144	924	84.4	25.8	
	Rates	48.1	75.8	27.7	8.7	36.4	15.6	100.0			
Total	Transactions	46,893	72,770	25,877	50,078	75,955	225,014	347,862	35.3	3.0	
	Rates	13.5	20.9	7.4	14.4	21.8	64.7	100.0			

(H) Hire Only. (B) Both Hire and Exit. (E) Exit Only. (C) Continuous Employment.

^aTurnover rate equals (H+E+B)/Total.

^bJobs worked at any time during the quarter.

Historical turnover data can be found online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/turnover.htm>.

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.0% in February 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported that the state’s seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate held steady at 4.0% from January to February. Wyoming’s unemployment rate was slightly lower than its February 2014 level of 4.3% and significantly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.5%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents was practically unchanged from January to February, rising by an estimated 80 individuals (0.0%). Wyoming’s labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) fell by 1,034 people (-0.3%) from a year earlier.

Unemployment rose in Sublette (up from 5.4% to 5.9%) and Uinta (up from 5.0% to 5.3%) counties.

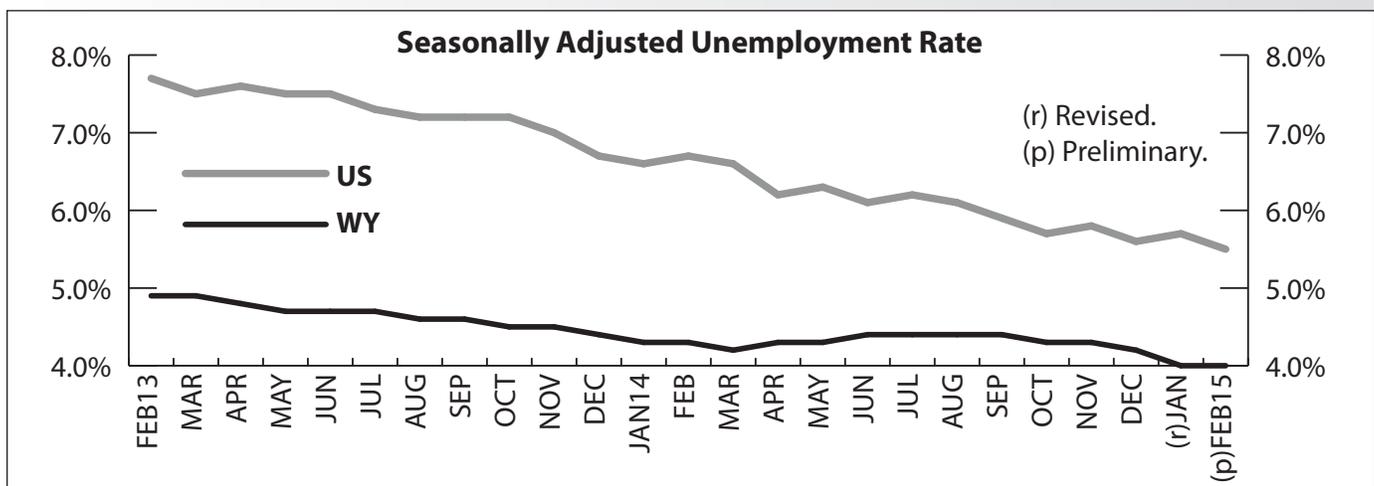
From February 2014 to February 2015, unemployment rates fell in 17 counties and rose slightly in five counties. Johnson County’s unemployment rate was unchanged from a year earlier at 6.0%. The largest decreases occurred in Sheridan (down from 6.0% to 5.1%), Teton (down from 4.6% to 3.9%), Park (down from 6.0% to 5.3%), Laramie (down from 5.1% to 4.4%), and Big Horn (down from 5.7% to 5.0%) counties. Sublette County’s unemployment rate rose from 5.0% to 5.9%.

From January to February, most county unemployment rates changed very little. Unemployment rates fell in Laramie (down from 5.0% to 4.4%), Sheridan (down from 5.6% to 5.1%), Teton (down from 4.3% to 3.9%), and Goshen (down from 3.8% to 3.4%) counties.

Niobrara County (3.3%) reported the lowest unemployment rate in February. It was followed by Goshen (3.4%), Albany (3.5%), and Converse (3.6%) counties. The highest unemployment rates were found in Lincoln (6.3%), Fremont (6.0%), Johnson (6.0%), and Sublette (5.9%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) rose from 282,500 in February 2014 to 286,500 in February 2015, a gain of 4,000 jobs (1.4%).

¹ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series to better understand changes in economic conditions from month to month.



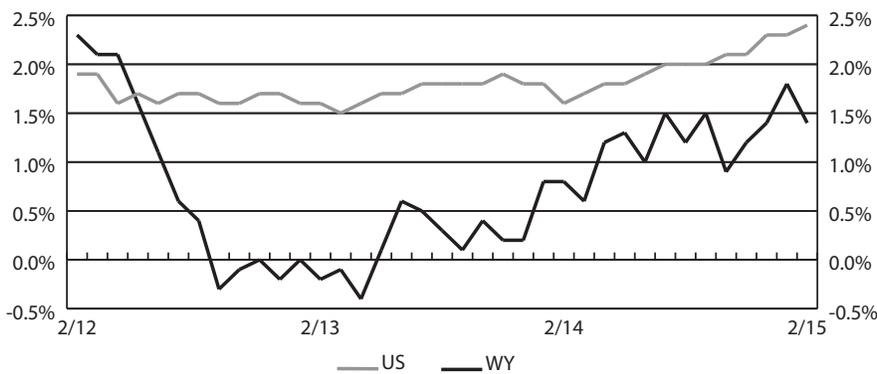
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, February 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

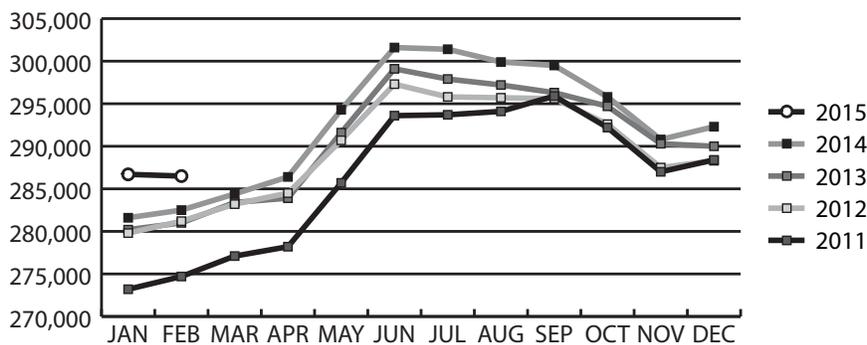
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm	284,119	286,500	2,381	0.8%
Natural Resources & Mining	26,793	25,700	-1,093	-4.3%
Construction	20,466	20,800	334	1.6%
Manufacturing	9,506	9,600	94	1.0%
Wholesale Trade	9,521	9,500	-21	-0.2%
Retail Trade	28,705	29,500	795	2.7%
Transportation & Utilities	15,696	15,800	104	0.7%
Information	3,733	3,800	67	1.8%
Financial Activities	11,139	11,600	461	4.0%
Professional & Business Services	17,544	18,400	856	4.7%
Educational & Health Services	27,386	27,700	314	1.1%
Leisure & Hospitality	32,232	33,100	868	2.6%
Other Services	9,577	9,400	-177	-1.9%
Government	71,821	71,600	-221	-0.3%

Projections were run in February 2015 and based on QCEW data through September 2014.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates February 2015 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.6
District of Columbia	7.8
Nevada	7.1
Mississippi	7.0
California	6.7
Louisiana	6.7
South Carolina	6.6
Tennessee	6.6
Arizona	6.5
Connecticut	6.4
New Jersey	6.4
Alaska	6.3
Georgia	6.3
Rhode Island	6.3
Washington	6.3
West Virginia	6.1
Illinois	6.0
New Mexico	6.0
Indiana	5.9
Michigan	5.9
Alabama	5.8
New York	5.8
Oregon	5.8
Florida	5.6
Arkansas	5.5
Maryland	5.5
Missouri	5.5
United States	5.5
North Carolina	5.3
Kentucky	5.2
Pennsylvania	5.2
Ohio	5.1
Maine	5.0
Massachusetts	4.9
Delaware	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Virginia	4.7
Montana	4.3
Texas	4.3
Colorado	4.2
Kansas	4.2
Hawaii	4.1
Iowa	4.1
Wyoming	4.0
Idaho	3.9
New Hampshire	3.9
Oklahoma	3.9
Vermont	3.9
Minnesota	3.7
South Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
North Dakota	2.9
Nebraska	2.7

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

State Unemployment Rates February 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Feb 15 Jan 15	Feb 15 Feb 14
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.8	28.9	28.1	-0.3	2.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.4	23.6	22.9	-0.8	2.2
GOODS PRODUCING	11.1	11.2	10.7	-0.9	3.7
Natural Resources & Mining	8.0	8.1	7.9	-1.2	1.3
Construction	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	17.7	17.7	17.4	0.0	1.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.7	5.8	5.6	-1.7	1.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.4	5.3	5.2	1.9	3.8

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Feb 15 Jan 15	Feb 15 Feb 14
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.2	24.0	24.6	0.8	-1.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	19.5	19.3	19.8	1.0	-1.5
GOODS PRODUCING	8.4	8.3	8.7	1.2	-3.4
Natural Resources & Mining	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	-1.7
Construction	1.3	1.2	1.5	8.3	-13.3
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.8	15.7	15.9	0.6	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.2	1.1	8.3	18.2
Leisure & Hospitality	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	-14.3
GOVERNMENT	4.7	4.7	4.8	0.0	-2.1

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Feb 15 Jan 15	Feb 15 Feb 14
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	17.6	17.7	17.4	-0.6	1.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.2	15.3	15.0	-0.7	1.3
GOODS PRODUCING	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.9	16.0	15.7	-0.6	1.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.5	2.6	2.4	-3.8	4.2
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Professional & Business Services	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
Leisure & Hospitality	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.3
District of Columbia	8.1
Alaska	7.6
West Virginia	7.6
Nevada	7.2
New Jersey	7.0
Rhode Island	7.0
Connecticut	6.9
California	6.8
Mississippi	6.8
South Carolina	6.8
Washington	6.8
Illinois	6.5
Georgia	6.4
New York	6.4
Tennessee	6.4
Missouri	6.3
New Mexico	6.3
Arizona	6.2
Louisiana	6.2
Oregon	6.2
Indiana	6.1
Arkansas	6.0
Maine	6.0
Alabama	5.8
Michigan	5.8
United States	5.8
North Carolina	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.7
Maryland	5.6
Ohio	5.6
Florida	5.5
Kentucky	5.5
Wisconsin	5.5
Massachusetts	5.4
Delaware	5.1
Virginia	5.1
Montana	4.9
Colorado	4.7
Idaho	4.7
Iowa	4.6
Wyoming	4.6
Kansas	4.5
New Hampshire	4.5
Minnesota	4.4
Texas	4.3
Hawaii	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
South Dakota	4.1
Vermont	4.1
Utah	3.9
North Dakota	3.7
Nebraska	2.9

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The consumer price index for transportation decreased 9.7% from February 2014 to February 2015 largely because of falling gasoline prices.

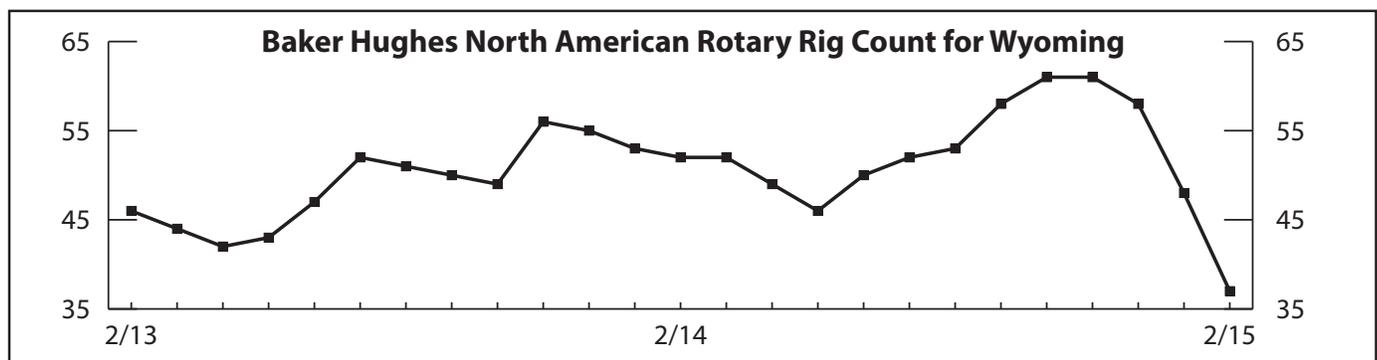
	Feb 2015 (p)	Jan 2015 (r)	Feb 2014 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	286,500	286,700	282,500	-0.1	1.4
Wyoming State Government	15,700	15,400	15,900	1.9	-1.3
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,300	46,700	45,500	1.3	4.0
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	42,600	43,100	41,900	-1.2	1.7
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,221,000	7,289,000	7,163,000	-0.9	0.8
As a percent of all workers	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	732,000	682,000	755,000	7.3	-3.0
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,772,000	7,269,000	7,397,000	-6.8	-8.4
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	19,638	18,667	21,044	5.2	-6.7
Benefits Paid	\$7,420,775	\$6,931,523	\$7,419,048	7.1	0.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$377.88	\$371.32	\$352.55	1.8	7.2
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	267,975	267,812	262,879	0.1	1.9
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.4%	2.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	234.7	233.7	234.8	0.4	0.0
Food & Beverages	246.3	246.1	239.5	0.1	2.8
Housing	236.0	235.5	230.9	0.2	2.2
Apparel	124.5	122.5	125.5	1.6	-0.8
Transportation	193.9	190.9	214.7	1.6	-9.7
Medical Care	442.8	441.0	432.8	0.4	2.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	115.6	115.3	115.7	0.3	-0.1
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	137.6	137.6	137.0	0.0	0.4
Other Goods & Services	411.8	412.5	405.9	-0.2	1.5
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	191.1	192.1	205.7	-0.5	-7.1
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	98	70	122	40.0	-19.7
Valuation	\$33,392,000	\$16,357,000	\$37,110,000	104.1	-10.0
Single Family Homes	95	61	97	55.7	-2.1
Valuation	\$33,017,000	\$15,464,000	\$35,297,000	113.5	-6.5
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	14	23	37	-39.1	-62.2
Valuation	\$3,054,000	\$5,260,000	\$4,908,000	-41.9	-37.8
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	19	10	24	90.0	-20.8
Valuation	\$3,643,000	\$1,491,000	\$4,740,000	144.3	-23.1
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	37	48	52	-22.9	-28.8

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm>.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor*

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Niobrara (3.3%), Goshen (3.4%), and Albany (3.5%) counties.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2014	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2014	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2014	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2014
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	47,389	47,672	47,640	44,775	44,968	44,807	2,614	2,704	2,833	5.5	5.7	5.9
Big Horn	5,490	5,580	5,363	5,215	5,307	5,055	275	273	308	5.0	4.9	5.7
Fremont	20,476	20,438	20,649	19,238	19,162	19,371	1,238	1,276	1,278	6.0	6.2	6.2
Hot Springs	2,425	2,425	2,515	2,313	2,315	2,388	112	110	127	4.6	4.5	5.0
Park	14,797	14,952	14,883	14,017	14,114	13,995	780	838	888	5.3	5.6	6.0
Washakie	4,201	4,277	4,230	3,992	4,070	3,998	209	207	232	5.0	4.8	5.5
NORTHEAST	53,900	54,140	53,730	51,532	51,667	51,182	2,368	2,473	2,548	4.4	4.6	4.7
Campbell	26,354	26,235	26,051	25,363	25,243	25,024	991	992	1,027	3.8	3.8	3.9
Crook	3,547	3,671	3,630	3,389	3,506	3,458	158	165	172	4.5	4.5	4.7
Johnson	4,262	4,333	4,403	4,008	4,066	4,139	254	267	264	6.0	6.2	6.0
Sheridan	15,818	15,956	15,700	15,008	15,069	14,758	810	887	942	5.1	5.6	6.0
Weston	3,919	3,945	3,946	3,764	3,783	3,803	155	162	143	4.0	4.1	3.6
SOUTHWEST	59,017	59,041	59,999	56,081	56,151	56,962	2,936	2,890	3,037	5.0	4.9	5.1
Lincoln	8,022	8,058	8,089	7,517	7,543	7,551	505	515	538	6.3	6.4	6.7
Sublette	4,881	4,985	4,708	4,594	4,718	4,471	287	267	237	5.9	5.4	5.0
Sweetwater	22,988	22,788	23,676	21,885	21,745	22,596	1,103	1,043	1,080	4.8	4.6	4.6
Teton	13,593	13,671	13,686	13,059	13,087	13,059	534	584	627	3.9	4.3	4.6
Uinta	9,533	9,539	9,840	9,026	9,058	9,285	507	481	555	5.3	5.0	5.6
SOUTHEAST	83,487	82,816	82,959	80,068	79,063	79,120	3,419	3,753	3,839	4.1	4.5	4.6
Albany	21,054	20,500	21,112	20,320	19,726	20,324	734	774	788	3.5	3.8	3.7
Goshen	7,006	7,213	7,154	6,771	6,938	6,871	235	275	283	3.4	3.8	4.0
Laramie	49,537	49,090	48,698	47,345	46,656	46,195	2,192	2,434	2,503	4.4	5.0	5.1
Niobrara	1,284	1,327	1,370	1,241	1,279	1,320	43	48	50	3.3	3.6	3.6
Platte	4,606	4,686	4,625	4,391	4,464	4,410	215	222	215	4.7	4.7	4.6
CENTRAL	59,958	60,305	59,860	57,356	57,682	57,138	2,602	2,623	2,722	4.3	4.3	4.5
Carbon	8,002	8,111	8,357	7,630	7,740	7,966	372	371	391	4.6	4.6	4.7
Converse	8,367	8,408	8,249	8,069	8,110	7,964	298	298	285	3.6	3.5	3.5
Natrona	43,589	43,786	43,254	41,657	41,832	41,208	1,932	1,954	2,046	4.4	4.5	4.7
STATEWIDE	303,750	303,977	304,187	289,810	289,532	289,209	13,940	14,445	14,978	4.6	4.8	4.9

Statewide Seasonally Adjusted	4.0	4.0	4.3
U.S.....	5.8	6.1	7.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....	5.5	5.7	6.7

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2015. Run Date 03/2015.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

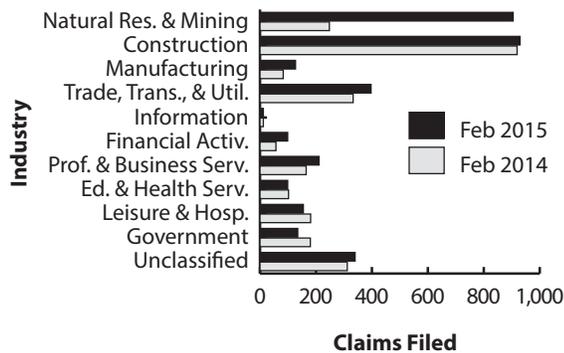
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

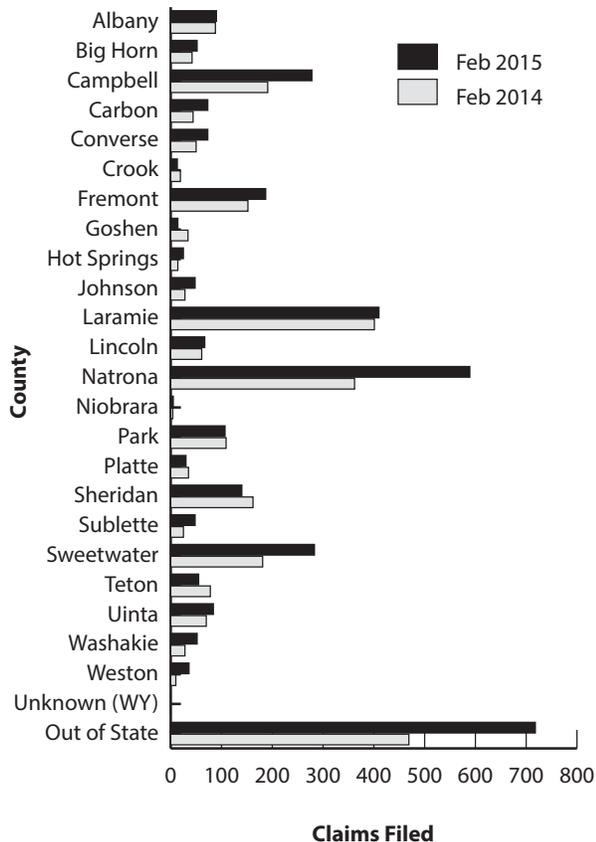
by: *Patrick Manning, Principal Economist*

Initial claims in natural resources & mining increased 36.6% from January 2015 and 284.2% from February 2014.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, February 2015



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, February 2015



INITIAL CLAIMS

	Claims Filed			% Change Claims Filed	
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	3,475	4,025	2,655	-13.7	30.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,963	2,160	1,251	-9.1	56.9
Natural Res. & Mining	905	682	248	32.7	264.9
Mining	899	658	234	36.6	284.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	57	51	5	11.8	1,040.0
Construction	929	1,333	919	-30.3	1.1
Manufacturing	127	143	83	-11.2	53.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,035	1,228	910	-15.7	13.7
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	397	403	333	-1.5	19.2
Wholesale Trade	72	62	67	16.1	7.5
Retail Trade	148	172	149	-14.0	-0.7
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	177	169	117	4.7	51.3
Information	12	14	12	-14.3	0.0
Financial Activities	99	62	57	59.7	73.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	211	293	165	-28.0	27.9
Educational & Health Svcs.	99	112	102	-11.6	-2.9
Leisure & Hospitality	155	277	181	-44.0	-14.4
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	57	61	53	-6.6	7.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	135	279	180	-51.6	-25.0
Federal Government	60	126	71	-52.4	-15.5
State Government	11	33	28	-66.7	-60.7
Local Government	62	119	81	-47.9	-23.5
Local Education	16	16	15	0.0	6.7
UNCLASSIFIED	340	357	312	-4.8	9.0

Laramie County

	410	471	400	-13.0	2.5
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	410	471	400	-13.0	2.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	208	230	193	-9.6	7.8
Construction	148	185	173	-20.0	-14.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	154	189	167	-18.5	-7.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	52	63	51	-17.5	2.0
Financial Activities	10	11	15	-9.1	-33.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	50	62	43	-19.4	16.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	29	32	23	-9.4	26.1
Leisure & Hospitality	13	25	22	-48.0	-40.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	20	29	27	-31.0	-25.9
UNCLASSIFIED	25	22	11	13.6	127.3

Natrona County

	588	468	361	25.6	62.9
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	588	468	361	25.6	62.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	370	274	192	35.0	92.7
Construction	147	162	127	-9.3	15.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	191	165	154	15.8	24.0
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	73	70	68	4.3	7.4
Financial Activities	16	8	9	100.0	77.8
Prof. & Business Svcs.	53	46	28	15.2	89.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	23	19	16	21.1	43.8
Leisure & Hospitality	27	18	29	50.0	-6.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	15	11	11	36.4	36.4
UNCLASSIFIED	11	16	2	-31.3	450.0

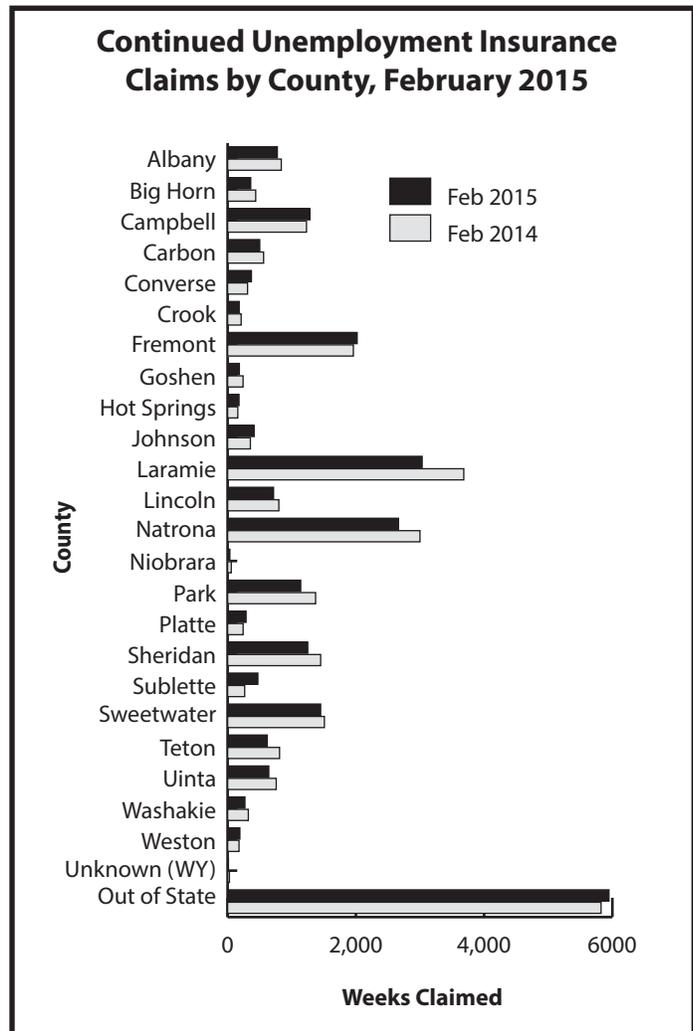
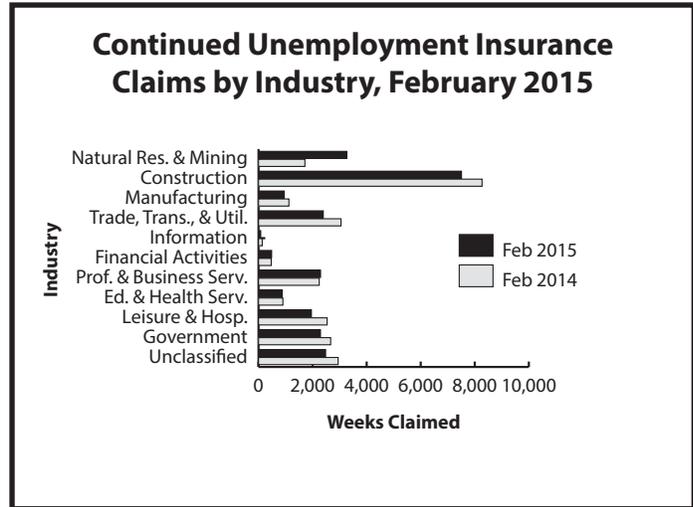
^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: *Patrick Manning, Principal Economist*

Extended claims decreased 6.0% from February 2014. However, a substantial increase in continued weeks claimed was seen in mining (103.1%) from February 2014.

CONTINUED CLAIMS	% Change Weeks Claimed				
	Continued Weeks Claimed Feb 15		Feb 15		Feb 14
	Feb 15	Jan 15	Feb 14	Jan 15	Feb 14
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	24,997	23,362	26,602	7.0	-6.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	7,238	7,120	7,521	1.7	-3.8
<i>Benefit Exhaustions</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>508</i>	<i>16.3</i>	<i>-25.4</i>
<i>Benefit Exhaustion Rates</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>6.8%</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>-1.5%</i>
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	11,722	10,419	11,110	12.5	5.5
Natural Res. & Mining	3,267	1,746	1,715	87.1	90.5
Mining	3,087	1,553	1,520	98.8	103.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	261	132	149	97.7	75.2
Construction	7,508	7,803	8,269	-3.8	-9.2
Manufacturing	946	868	1,124	9.0	-15.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	8,500	8,199	9,877	3.7	-13.9
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	2,395	2,037	3,051	17.6	-21.5
Wholesale Trade	408	350	550	16.6	-25.8
Retail Trade	1,032	960	1,661	7.5	-37.9
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	955	727	840	31.4	13.7
Information	81	79	137	2.5	-40.9
Financial Activities	484	379	470	27.7	3.0
Prof. & Business Services	2,294	2,055	2,245	11.6	2.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	877	989	901	-11.3	-2.7
Leisure & Hospitality	1,956	2,247	2,536	-13.0	-22.9
Other Svcs., exc. Public Adm.	407	408	530	-0.2	-23.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,291	2,244	2,668	2.1	-14.1
Federal Government	1,230	1,271	1,324	-3.2	-7.1
State Government	227	188	240	20.7	-5.4
Local Government	833	783	1,103	6.4	-24.5
Local Education	111	142	168	-21.8	-33.9
UNCLASSIFIED	2,482	2,499	2,945	-0.7	-15.7
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,034	3,307	3,682	-8.3	-17.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	880	1,012	1,045	-13.0	-15.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,444	1,763	1,886	-18.1	-23.4
Construction	1,172	1,480	1,700	-20.8	-31.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,224	1,210	1,518	1.2	-19.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	381	329	523	15.8	-27.2
Financial Activities	79	80	85	-1.3	-7.1
Prof. & Business Svcs.	448	416	557	7.7	-19.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	245	247	155	-0.8	58.1
Leisure & Hospitality	108	151	183	-28.5	-41.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	235	219	226	7.3	4.0
UNCLASSIFIED	129	113	50	14.2	158.0
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,665	2,454	2,999	8.6	-11.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	807	769	869	4.9	-7.1
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,359	1,244	1,485	9.2	-8.5
Construction	729	904	1,043	-19.4	-30.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,095	1,028	1,322	6.5	-17.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	350	307	448	14.0	-21.9
Financial Activities	53	44	66	20.5	-19.7
Professional & Business Svcs.	403	369	366	9.2	10.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	170	194	208	-12.4	-18.3
Leisure & Hospitality	126	124	195	1.6	-35.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	108	93	121	16.1	-10.7
UNCLASSIFIED	101	87	70	16.1	44.3



^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

**Wyoming Department of Workforce
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