

TRENDS

Non-Carbon Mining: An Important Part of Wyoming's Economy

by: Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Supervisor

Non-carbon mining is an important but often overlooked area of mining in Wyoming. Employment in this sector is much more concentrated in Wyoming than in other parts of the U.S. Even though non-carbon mining accounts for only about 1% of all jobs in Wyoming, wages in this sector are generally much higher than the statewide average.

Coal mining and the oil & gas industry are important parts of Wyoming's economy. In addition, non-carbon mining of uranium, trona, bentonite, sand and gravel are other important components of Wyoming's economy. This article presents employment and earnings data in these industries as identified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), as well as historic trends and short-term market outlook.

Due to the need to protect employer confidentiality, all employment for non-carbon mining has been combined to analyze employment and wages for this article.

Discussion

Uranium

Wyoming leads the nation in uranium production. In 2014, an estimated 2.9 million pounds of uranium were produced, about 65% of American production. It is estimated that Wyoming has 106 million pounds of known uranium reserves (Wyoming Mining Association, n.d.1). In the U.S., uranium is primarily used for nuclear power, and not many companies produce uranium. According to Moran

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015, a greater proportion of employers offered benefits to their full-time jobs than to their part-time jobs. For example, 44.4% of employers offered medical insurance to their full-time jobs, but only 4.9% offered the benefit to their part-time jobs. ... *page 8*
- Several popular and high earning programs are offered at fewer than half of Wyoming's community colleges, which may be especially relevant to administrators and policymakers who are interested in extending current programs to additional colleges.. ... *page 17*

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(2016), Cameco is the largest U.S. uranium producer and operates the Smith Ranch-Highland mine in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. In June 2015, Energy Fuels acquired the Nichols Ranch ISR mine and plant in Wyoming (Moran, 2016).

The outlook for uranium depends on the world's continued reliance on nuclear power. Uranium prices dropped about 60% after the Fukushima reactor accident in 2011, and Japan powered all of its nuclear reactors down by 2013 (Conca, 2016). Other countries, such as Germany and Switzerland, also closed nuclear power plants. By mid-2014, uranium prices bottomed out at \$30 per pound. According to Conca (2016), uranium prices are recovering and the outlook for the uranium market has brightened. Japan has restarted most of its nuclear power plants. China has 26 nuclear power plants in operation and 25 under construction, along with another 100 planned by 2030. India is also expanding its nuclear power generation. The U.S. is currently relicensing 90% of its existing reactors for 20 to 40 years. This increase in nuclear power should stabilize uranium prices somewhere between \$40 to \$60 per pound in the coming decade (Conca, 2016). There is a correlation between market price for uranium and employment in U.S. uranium production, according to Bonnar (2016). The spot price for uranium in 2003 was \$11 per pound, compared to nearly \$100 per pound in 2007. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nationwide employment in uranium production more than quadrupled from 321 employees in 2003 to 1,563 employees in 2008 (Bonnar, 2016). Since then, prices have averaged below \$30 per pound, and employment was at 625 in 2015. Spot prices have been low because of large inventories still held by nuclear power companies. Using

the location quotient calculator from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which allows us the ready comparison of relative employment levels¹, uranium mining (NAICS 212291) is 207.3 times more concentrated in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole.

Trona

Trona is a "sodium carbonate compound that is processed into soda ash or bicarbonate of soda," commonly known as baking soda (Wyoming Mining Association, n.d.2). Soda ash is also used for glassmaking, and has many uses in the chemical industry. Wyoming has the world's largest deposit of trona, with estimated reserves of 127 billion tons. In 2016, only 40 billion tons are recoverable. In 2015, Wyoming mines produced more than 17 million tons of trona. Bolen (2016) reported that soda ash production in the U.S. increased from 10,700 tons in 2011 to 11,700 tons in 2015. Prices increased from \$260 per short ton in 2011 to \$302 in 2015. Using the BLS location quotient calculator², calculations indicate that employment in potash, soda, & borate mineral mining, which includes trona (NAICS 212391), is 233.6 times more concentrated in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole.

Bentonite

Wyoming also leads the nation in bentonite production, with nearly 3.7 million tons produced in 2015 (Wyoming Mining Association, n.d.3). Of the world's known supply of bentonite, 70% can be found in

1 Location quotients are ratios that allow an area's distribution of employment by industry, ownership, and size class to be compared to a reference area's distribution.

2 Location quotients are calculated by first dividing local industry employment by the all industry total of local employment. Second, national industry employment is divided by the all industry total for the nation. Finally, the local ratio is divided by the national ratio (BLS, 2014).

Wyoming. Wyoming bentonite can swell up to 16 times its original size and absorb up to 10 times its own weight in water. This characteristic is rarely found in bentonite mined elsewhere, making Wyoming bentonite unique. Bentonite has many uses, which include absorbents, animal feed, drilling fluids, and sealants. Wyoming's bentonite is often used for pet litter because of its absorbent properties. It is also used in the production of crayons, medications, and cosmetics. U.S. bentonite production has decreased since 2011, from 4,990 tons to 4,320 tons. The average price per ton in 2011 was \$61 and then increased to \$67 in 2014, but dropped to \$60 in 2015 (Flanagan, 2016). Clay, ceramic, & refractory minerals mining (NAICS 212325), which includes bentonite, is 85.2 times more concentrated in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole.

Sand and Gravel

Sand and gravel mining, though not as unique to Wyoming as the other three non-carbon minerals, still makes up a larger share of employment in Wyoming than it does in the rest of the nation as a whole. Employment is 5.2 times more concentrated in Wyoming than in the U.S. Sand and gravel are

Table 1: Non-Carbon Mining Employment and Wages in Wyoming, 1990-2015

Year and Quarter		Average Monthly Employment			Non-Carbon Mining			Total Wages
Y	Q	Total ^a	Non-Carbon Mining	% of Total	Total ^a	Non-Carbon Mining	Difference	Total Wages
1990	1	179,672	5,248	2.9%	\$377	\$800	\$423	\$54,554,235
	2	193,430	5,381	2.8%	\$386	\$798	\$412	\$55,847,098
	3	197,734	5,515	2.8%	\$373	\$819	\$446	\$58,719,623
	4	191,986	5,473	2.9%	\$407	\$863	\$456	\$61,415,247
1991	1	184,898	5,582	3.0%	\$387	\$818	\$431	\$59,383,774
	2	197,945	5,647	2.9%	\$392	\$807	\$415	\$59,254,616
	3	202,343	5,794	2.9%	\$385	\$813	\$428	\$61,273,574
	4	195,876	5,629	2.9%	\$420	\$915	\$495	\$66,946,737
1992	1	188,172	5,609	3.0%	\$399	\$816	\$417	\$59,483,053
	2	200,123	5,640	2.8%	\$404	\$841	\$437	\$61,680,641
	3	204,302	5,741	2.8%	\$392	\$876	\$484	\$65,394,263
	4	199,367	5,605	2.8%	\$437	\$914	\$477	\$66,619,855
1993	1	190,829	5,602	2.9%	\$402	\$832	\$430	\$60,613,640
	2	204,425	5,669	2.8%	\$414	\$900	\$486	\$66,354,613
	3	210,591	5,518	2.6%	\$408	\$917	\$509	\$65,767,570
	4	204,573	5,235	2.6%	\$448	\$952	\$504	\$64,777,174
1994	1	197,907	5,496	2.8%	\$415	\$901	\$486	\$64,339,629
	2	211,398	5,502	2.6%	\$421	\$894	\$473	\$63,965,633
	3	217,159	5,408	2.5%	\$418	\$914	\$496	\$64,276,183
	4	211,260	5,304	2.5%	\$444	\$967	\$523	\$66,682,224
1995	1	202,810	5,345	2.6%	\$424	\$965	\$541	\$67,054,486
	2	214,680	5,442	2.5%	\$430	\$925	\$495	\$65,419,707
	3	218,919	4,412	2.0%	\$419	\$926	\$507	\$53,114,698
	4	212,459	4,349	2.0%	\$447	\$976	\$529	\$55,155,557
1996	1	203,425	3,454	1.7%	\$430	\$974	\$544	\$43,730,233
	2	215,763	3,589	1.7%	\$434	\$884	\$450	\$41,226,942
	3	220,994	3,558	1.6%	\$429	\$956	\$527	\$44,218,670
	4	214,613	3,464	1.6%	\$465	\$1,007	\$542	\$45,350,931
1997	1	205,344	3,465	1.7%	\$452	\$1,055	\$603	\$47,521,795
	2	218,432	3,597	1.6%	\$450	\$935	\$485	\$43,720,623
	3	225,639	3,673	1.6%	\$446	\$970	\$524	\$46,303,237
	4	218,047	3,705	1.7%	\$488	\$1,080	\$592	\$52,015,993
1998	1	210,178	3,856	1.8%	\$459	\$957	\$498	\$47,985,202
	2	223,565	3,850	1.7%	\$466	\$953	\$487	\$47,676,591
	3	228,036	3,774	1.7%	\$466	\$978	\$512	\$48,011,295
	4	220,876	3,652	1.7%	\$512	\$1,070	\$558	\$50,803,781
1999	1	214,156	3,320	1.6%	\$469	\$999	\$530	\$43,131,673
	2	226,939	3,372	1.5%	\$479	\$1,004	\$525	\$44,024,781
	3	232,109	3,319	1.4%	\$492	\$1,017	\$525	\$43,891,696
	4	226,580	3,286	1.5%	\$532	\$1,042	\$510	\$44,527,977
2000	1	220,848	3,029	1.4%	\$504	\$1,019	\$515	\$40,111,165
	2	233,398	3,108	1.3%	\$501	\$980	\$479	\$39,586,988
	3	237,687	3,169	1.3%	\$499	\$973	\$474	\$40,101,138
	4	231,485	2,943	1.3%	\$561	\$1,049	\$488	\$40,151,707
2001	1	226,068	2,842	1.3%	\$522	\$1,052	\$530	\$38,862,641
	2	239,822	2,889	1.2%	\$527	\$1,047	\$520	\$39,310,238
	3	245,145	2,906	1.2%	\$528	\$1,046	\$518	\$39,532,278
	4	238,053	2,875	1.2%	\$580	\$1,096	\$516	\$40,964,694
2002	1	230,176	2,760	1.2%	\$547	\$1,081	\$534	\$38,778,163
	2	242,185	2,773	1.1%	\$547	\$1,067	\$520	\$38,443,111
	3	247,009	2,736	1.1%	\$543	\$1,083	\$540	\$38,512,872
	4	239,105	2,636	1.1%	\$592	\$1,130	\$538	\$38,710,339

^aTotal = all industries.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

(Table continued on page 5)

(Table continued from page 4)

Table 1: Non-Carbon Mining Employment and Wages in Wyoming, 1990-2015

Year and Quarter		Average Monthly Employment					Total Wages	
Y	Q	Total ^a	Non-Carbon Mining	% of Total	Total ^a	Non-Carbon Mining		Difference
2003	1	230,429	2,550	1.1%	\$560	\$1,165	\$605	\$38,628,168
	2	243,431	2,556	1.0%	\$563	\$1,122	\$559	\$37,270,816
	3	249,876	2,570	1.0%	\$562	\$1,122	\$560	\$37,486,522
	4	243,106	2,564	1.1%	\$616	\$1,216	\$600	\$40,535,861
2004	1	237,469	2,578	1.1%	\$583	\$1,163	\$580	\$38,965,777
	2	250,786	2,612	1.0%	\$586	\$1,139	\$553	\$38,677,645
	3	255,078	2,617	1.0%	\$591	\$1,231	\$640	\$41,882,237
	4	248,966	2,623	1.1%	\$641	\$1,213	\$572	\$41,351,616
2005	1	242,091	2,651	1.1%	\$610	\$1,223	\$613	\$42,150,510
	2	256,019	2,700	1.1%	\$621	\$1,180	\$559	\$41,408,997
	3	262,078	2,723	1.0%	\$642	\$1,236	\$594	\$43,748,831
	4	257,496	2,729	1.1%	\$682	\$1,230	\$548	\$43,631,331
2006	1	254,303	2,710	1.1%	\$668	\$1,274	\$606	\$44,864,499
	2	268,726	2,766	1.0%	\$684	\$1,199	\$515	\$43,097,000
	3	274,060	2,827	1.0%	\$705	\$1,242	\$537	\$45,658,576
	4	270,379	2,745	1.0%	\$761	\$1,264	\$503	\$45,117,809
2007	1	266,607	2,715	1.0%	\$730	\$1,340	\$610	\$47,317,868
	2	279,255	2,770	1.0%	\$739	\$1,259	\$520	\$45,320,397
	3	284,352	2,839	1.0%	\$734	\$1,264	\$530	\$46,642,043
	4	280,888	2,825	1.0%	\$815	\$1,301	\$486	\$47,755,397
2008	1	276,182	2,829	1.0%	\$779	\$1,351	\$572	\$49,682,817
	2	287,775	2,847	1.0%	\$780	\$1,276	\$496	\$47,235,479
	3	293,895	2,907	1.0%	\$781	\$1,318	\$537	\$49,819,668
	4	287,478	2,893	1.0%	\$850	\$1,375	\$525	\$51,700,746
2009	1	273,471	2,798	1.0%	\$778	\$1,350	\$572	\$49,103,021
	2	277,908	2,649	1.0%	\$768	\$1,288	\$520	\$44,347,004
	3	278,234	2,664	1.0%	\$756	\$1,324	\$568	\$45,847,034
	4	269,439	2,637	1.0%	\$831	\$1,481	\$650	\$50,781,173
2010	1	260,730	2,697	1.0%	\$774	\$1,396	\$622	\$48,934,792
	2	273,052	2,786	1.0%	\$790	\$1,442	\$652	\$52,219,035
	3	278,316	2,894	1.0%	\$792	\$1,382	\$590	\$51,987,909
	4	272,511	2,863	1.1%	\$871	\$1,517	\$646	\$56,473,084
2011	1	263,556	2,983	1.1%	\$808	\$1,540	\$732	\$59,699,497
	2	275,167	3,071	1.1%	\$820	\$1,479	\$659	\$59,066,206
	3	282,231	3,173	1.1%	\$832	\$1,427	\$595	\$58,874,768
	4	278,015	3,191	1.1%	\$876	\$1,462	\$586	\$60,667,322
2012	1	270,073	3,166	1.2%	\$852	\$1,562	\$710	\$64,288,298
	2	281,190	3,222	1.1%	\$841	\$1,484	\$643	\$62,160,879
	3	284,180	3,188	1.1%	\$828	\$1,428	\$600	\$59,186,857
	4	278,868	3,125	1.1%	\$908	\$1,525	\$617	\$61,939,325
2013	1	270,861	3,111	1.1%	\$859	\$1,587	\$728	\$64,187,125
	2	281,708	3,150	1.1%	\$845	\$1,570	\$725	\$64,273,352
	3	285,730	3,127	1.1%	\$840	\$1,467	\$627	\$59,659,741
	4	280,701	3,068	1.1%	\$916	\$1,555	\$639	\$62,028,556
2014	1	274,063	3,094	1.1%	\$877	\$1,592	\$715	\$64,028,053
	2	286,699	3,167	1.1%	\$870	\$1,617	\$747	\$66,571,905
	3	291,309	3,167	1.1%	\$876	\$1,528	\$652	\$62,915,541
	4	285,540	2,931	1.0%	\$953	\$1,650	\$697	\$62,850,212
2015	1	277,745	3,110	1.1%	\$892	\$1,667	\$775	\$67,406,364
	2	285,242	3,114	1.1%	\$868	\$1,635	\$767	\$66,196,520
	3	288,316	3,087	1.1%	\$865	\$1,618	\$753	\$64,944,894
	4	278,879	3,001	1.1%	\$937	\$1,802	\$865	\$70,299,476

^aTotal = all industries.

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

important construction materials, currently at an upward four-year trend (Sangine & Krisanda, 2016). Sand and gravel mining was up 10% from first quarter 2015 (2015Q1) to first quarter 2016 (2016Q1). Bennett (2016) reported that production was still significantly lower than in 2006, when sand and gravel reached an all-time high of 1.34 billion tons, before the national Great Recession began in December 2007 (NBER, 2010).

Non-Carbon Mining Wages

In the early 1990s, non-carbon employment comprised as much as 3.0% of Wyoming's employment. Employment in non-carbon mining steadily declined as a share of total employment from 1993 to 2002, before leveling out at around 1.0%. Currently there are about 3,000 non-carbon mining jobs in Wyoming, compared to more than 5,000 jobs in the early 1990s. As shown in Table 1 (see page 4) and Figure 1 (see page 6), a large drop in employment of about 1,900 jobs occurred from 1995 to 1996 in non-carbon mining; this was due to a non-economic code change, meaning there was a reclassification from

one industry code into another as better information became available.

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 2 (see page 7), the average weekly wage for non-carbon mining jobs historically has been significantly higher than the average across all industries in Wyoming. In 2015Q4, the average weekly wage in non-carbon mining was \$1,802, compared to the average across all industries of \$937.

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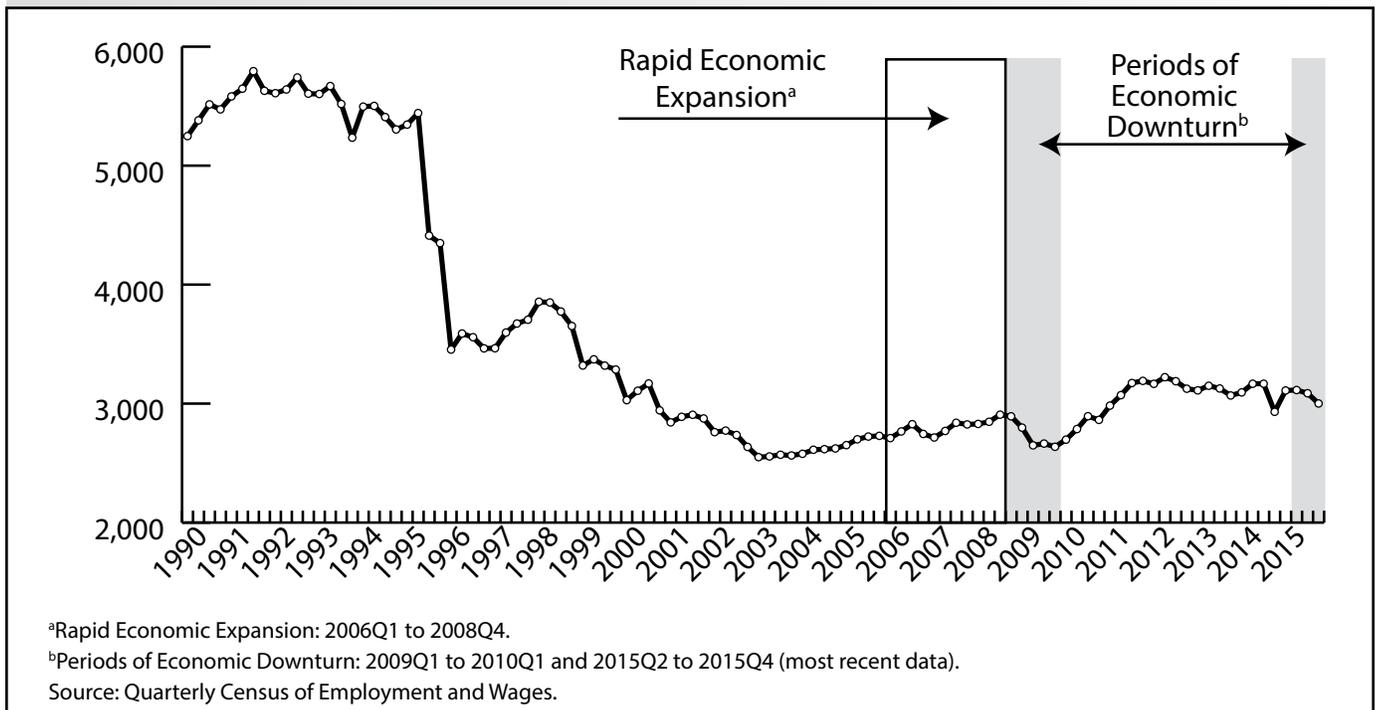


Figure 1: Average Monthly Employment for Non-Carbon Mining in Wyoming, 1990Q1-2015Q4

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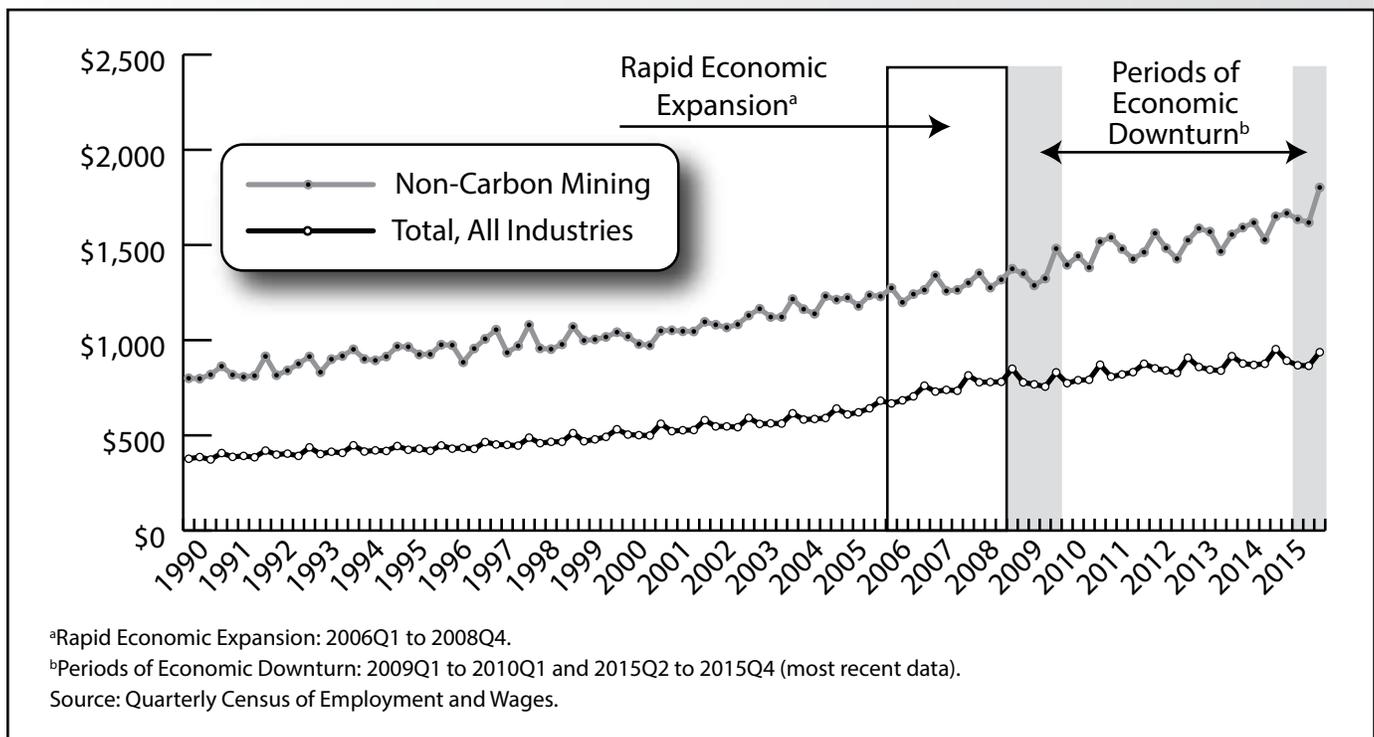


Figure 2: Average Weekly Wage for Non-Carbon Mining Compared to Statewide Average Weekly Wage in Wyoming, 1990Q1-2015Q4

Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015

by: Lisa Knapp, Senior Research Analyst

This article, based on the Wyoming Employment Benefits Survey, examines the prevalence of employer-provided benefits such as medical insurance, retirement plans, and paid leave in Wyoming during third quarter 2015. These benefits are analyzed in several ways: by full- and part-time employment status, employer size class, industry, and by Wyoming substate region. The full Wyoming Benefits Survey publication is available at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits/benefits_2015.pdf.

Total employee compensation refers to the direct compensation paid to an employee in the form of salary or wages, and also the indirect compensation provided to the employee in the form of benefits. These benefits include medical, dental, and vision insurance, retirement plans, disability plans, and paid leave. Paid leave can take several forms including paid holidays, paid vacation, and paid sick leave. Some companies prefer to roll these different forms of paid leave into one set of hours or days, generally referred to as paid time off, which employees can use for vacation or illness as it suits their needs.

There has been increased conversation in the United States recently about the costs and perks of offering employees paid medical leave. This includes paid sick leave that an employee can use for short-term personal or family illness, paid medical leave for maternity or paternity leave, leave for longer-term personal or family illness, or leave to care for an ailing parent. According to a survey conducted in 2012 of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) users, 55% of people took extended sick leave to deal with their own health condition, 21% took leave to care for a new child, and 18% took leave to care for an aging family member, while 6% took leave for reasons unspecified by the respondent (U.S. Department of Labor, September 2015).

Evidence indicates there are numerous advantages to providing paid medical leave to workers. Some of these are obvious, such as allowing workers – particularly low-wage workers who may otherwise not be able to afford to take time off – time to recover from personal illness, time to go to medical appointments or seek treatment for illnesses, time for parents to bond with newborns and/or recover from childbirth, and time to take care of elderly parents (U.S. Department of Labor, September 2015). Paid medical leave also allows workers the opportunity to stay home with and provide care to a sick child without any negative effects on their job or finances (Smith & Schaffer, 2013).

Paid medical leave has been shown to improve employee morale and reduce worker reliance on public assistance programs (U.S. Department of Labor, October 2015). Furthermore, this type of leave can improve the economy by potentially increasing the number of younger women in the workforce as well as making American businesses more competitive in a global economy where most countries offer paid medical leave in some form (U.S. Department of Labor, September 2015). There is also evidence that women who have access to paid medical leave, particularly paid maternity leave, are more likely to return to the same employer upon conclusion of the leave and

that companies offering this benefit are more likely to retain women who return to the workforce after childbirth (Waldfoegel, Higuchi, & Abe, 1998). This can lower company turnover and save companies the cost of training new employees, estimated to be up to 21% or more of the employee's salary (Boushey & Glynn, 2012).

The U.S. adopted the FMLA into law in 1993, which protects the jobs of workers in companies of at least 50 employees for up to 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave (Peipens, Soman, Berkowitz, & White, 2012). However, the U.S. is the only developed nation in the world that does not have a mandatory paid parental leave policy or other form of paid medical leave in place (Addati, Cassirer, & Gilchrist, 2014). In September 2015, a presidential executive order was issued to provide up to seven days of paid sick leave to employees of federal contractors. There have been calls to pass further legislation mandating paid sick and parental leave for all employees (White House, 2015).

Five states currently have paid medical leave programs: California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Oregon, and Vermont (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016), and at least 20 cities have passed similar programs, such as New York City, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. (Rifelj & Courtney, 2015). Legislation for paid sick leave programs, which are paid for by a small employee tax or by the employer, have been pursued to some degree recently in 20 other states, including Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Florida, and Wisconsin (O'Connor; 2016). Several private companies, including large tech companies, banks, retail companies, and charitable foundations, have also added paid family leave benefits to their

lists of employee benefits in recent years (Adamczyk, 2015).

Wyoming does not have laws governing paid medical leave (Berger, 2016; Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Labor Standards Office, N.D.) but many employers offer their employees paid time off or some combination of paid sick, vacation, and holiday leave. This article examines the prevalence of traditional benefits, such as medical insurance and retirement plans, as well as offerings of paid leave by employer size, industry, and substate region.

Methodology

The Wyoming Benefits Survey is designed to collect data from Wyoming employers about the workplace benefits they offer their employees. The survey questionnaire is sent to a random sample of unemployment insurance covered employers from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages database on a quarterly basis. Generally, around 70% or more of the questionnaires are completed and returned each quarter. The resulting estimates are based on the average employment in the state during each quarter and the preceding seven quarters, which, in the case of the results used for this analysis, includes employment between fourth quarter 2013 (2013Q4) and third quarter 2015 (2015Q3). For more information about the sampling and estimation process used to create the benefits survey estimates, please see http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits2013/benefits_2013.pdf.

A selection of tables containing data for employers and the total number of jobs, broken out by full-and part-time status, employer size class (the number

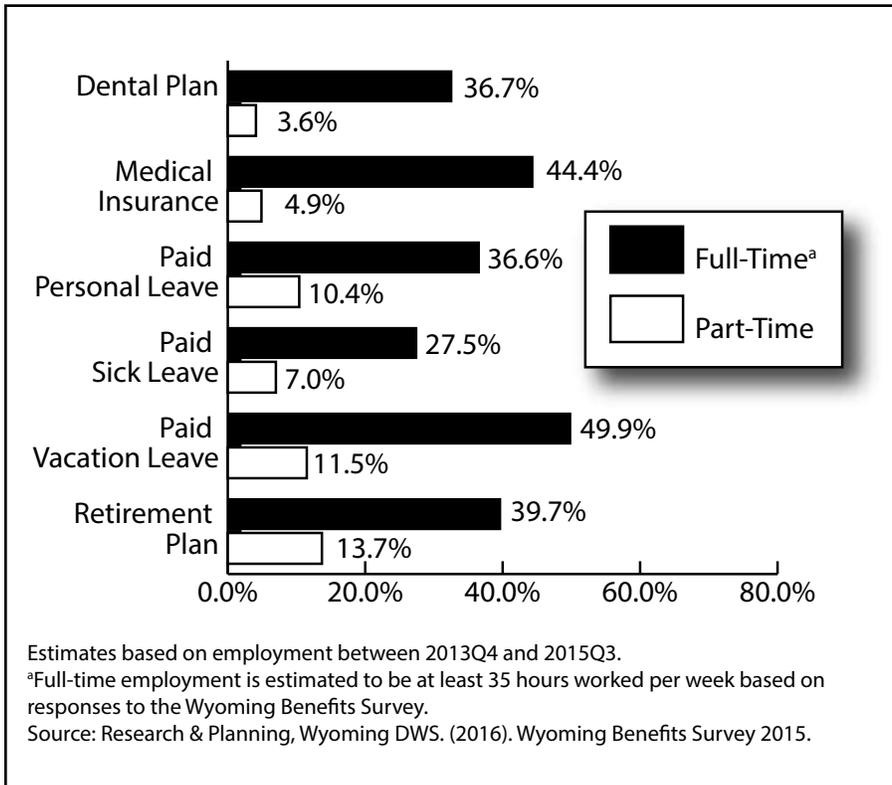


Figure 1: Percentage of Employers Offering Selected Benefits to Full- and Part-Time Wyoming Jobs, 2015Q3

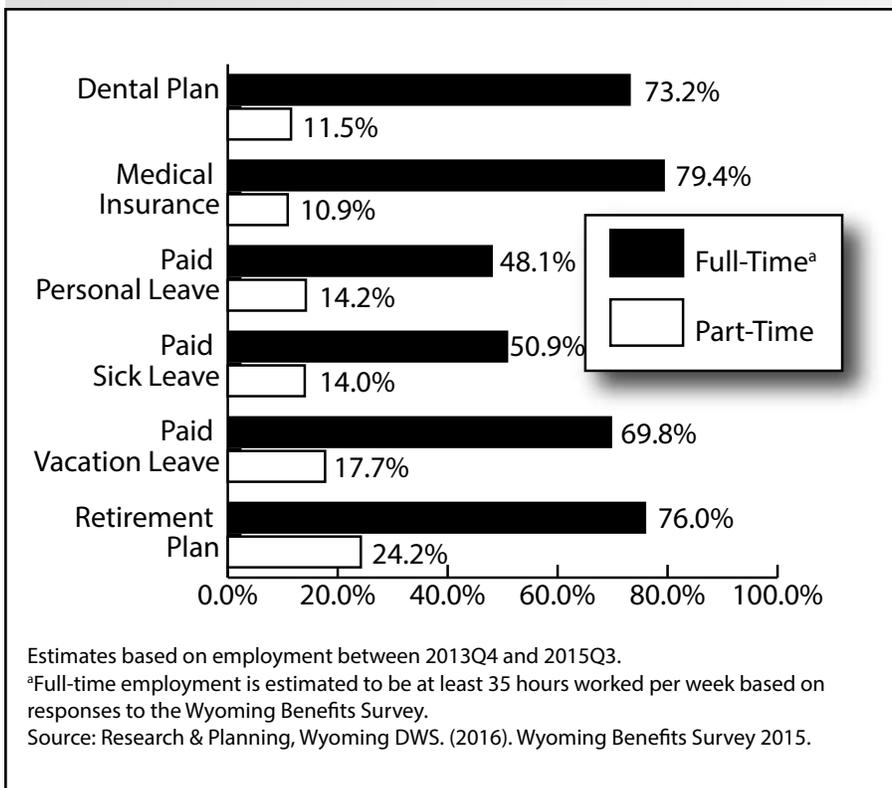


Figure 2: Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Wyoming Jobs Offered Selected Benefits, 2015Q3

of employees hired by a business), industry, and Wyoming substate region, are presented in this article. Based on responses to the survey, full-time employment is estimated to be at least 35 hours worked per week. Complete tables and figures are available in the Wyoming Benefits Survey publication, which is available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits/benefits_2015.pdf.

Analysis

During each quarter since fourth quarter 2009 (2009Q4), three-fourths of jobs in Wyoming were full-time, with an estimated 35 hours or more per week. Overall, a greater proportion of employers offered benefits to their full-time jobs than to their part-time jobs (see Figure 1). For example, 44.4% of employers offered medical insurance to their full-time jobs, but only 4.9% offered the benefit to their part-time jobs. Likewise, 39.7% of employers offered retirement plans to their full-time jobs, while 13.7% offered retirement benefits to part-time jobs. Half of the Wyoming employers surveyed (49.9%) offered paid vacation leave to full-time jobs compared to

11.5% who offered the benefit to part-time jobs. Just over one-fourth of employers (27.5%) offered paid sick leave to full-time jobs, while 7.0% offered the benefit to part-time jobs.

Similarly, a larger proportion of full-time jobs were offered benefits (see Figure 2, page 10). Among full-time jobs, 79.4% were offered medical insurance, and 76.0% were offered retirement benefits. In comparison, 10.9% of part-time jobs were offered medical insurance and 24.2% were offered retirement plans. More than two-thirds of full-time jobs (69.8%) were offered paid vacation leave, and half (50.9%) were offered paid sick leave. Among part-time jobs, 17.7% were offered paid vacation leave while 14.0% were offered paid sick leave.

**Firm Size Class
(Number of Employees)**

Employers with more employees were more likely to offer benefits (see Table 1). The largest proportion of employers to offer benefits had 50 or more workers. Of these, 78.6% offered dental plans, 84.4% offered medical insurance, 78.4% offered retirement plans, 70.7% offered paid vacation leave, and 48.3% offered paid sick leave. As the size

of the firm decreased, so did the proportion of employers offering benefits.

Jobs in larger firms were also more likely to be offered benefits (see Table 2). Of jobs in firms with 50 or more employees, 78.0% were offered medical insurance and 81.7% were offered retirement plans. In comparison, only 28.7% of jobs in firms with one

to four employees were offered medical insurance and 28.8% were offered retirement plans. Among companies with 50 or more employees, two-thirds of jobs (66.6%) were offered paid vacation leave and more than half (56.3%) were offered paid sick leave. Only one-third (33.8%) of jobs in companies with one to four employees were offered paid vacation leave

Table 1: Percent of Employers Offering Selected Benefits by Firm Size, 2015Q3

Benefit	Firm Size (Number of Employees)					Total
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	
Dental Plan	12.1	22.3	34.8	53.0	78.6	23.4
Medical Insurance	20.5	31.0	47.6	60.3	84.4	32.2
Paid Personal Leave	19.8	30.4	35.1	39.4	49.5	26.8
Paid Sick Leave	14.9	21.5	25.7	29.0	48.3	20.3
Paid Vacation Leave	25.1	43.0	51.1	56.1	70.7	36.6
Retirement Plan	19.9	27.3	39.8	52.6	78.4	29.3
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	2.5	4.4	4.0	7.6	21.2	4.3
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	18.1	25.5	35.7	51.6	73.8	27.1

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

Table 2: Percent of Jobs Offered Selected Benefits by Firm Size, 2015Q3

Benefit	Firm Size (Number of Employees)					Total
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	
Dental Plan	20.3	21.6	31.1	47.0	76.1	57.5
Medical Insurance	28.7	29.4	42.0	52.5	78.0	62.0
Paid Personal Leave	29.1	27.9	31.2	34.6	45.7	39.5
Paid Sick Leave	20.7	20.5	21.1	25.0	56.3	41.6
Paid Vacation Leave	33.8	40.0	44.3	49.0	66.6	56.5
Retirement Plan	28.8	27.1	37.4	49.3	81.7	62.9
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	7.5	4.0	3.3	7.2	35.0	22.2
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	27.4	25.7	33.9	48.6	73.5	57.5

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

and one-fifth (20.7%) were offered paid sick leave.

Industry

The proportion of employers that offered benefits varied by industry

(see Table 3). The largest proportion of employers who offered benefits were in state & local government. Also, in general, a larger proportion of employers in natural resources & mining, wholesale trade, and education offered benefits compared to employers in other industries. The largest

Table 3: Percent of Wyoming Employers Offering Selected Benefits by Industry, 2015Q3

Benefit	Industry														Total
	Natural Resources & Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation & Utilities	Information	Financial Activities	Pro. & Business Services	Education	Health Care & Social Services	Leisure & Hospitality	Other Services	State & Local Government	
Dental Plan	37.6	18.0	27.4	41.3	19.7	24.7	33.8	22.6	21.8	43.5	21.4	13.7	17.7	69.2	23.4
Medical Insurance	47.0	26.3	35.7	50.3	29.2	32.8	42.7	30.2	36.0	50.9	27.9	18.8	25.1	76.0	32.2
Paid Personal Leave	29.3	18.8	27.9	32.6	29.1	19.3	37.4	33.2	29.7	40.2	35.3	11.0	26.7	37.0	26.8
Paid Sick Leave	21.6	7.8	16.6	34.9	22.0	10.7	34.1	23.4	20.8	35.5	26.5	9.0	19.0	70.8	20.3
Paid Vacation Leave	45.4	29.4	42.9	53.8	45.1	33.9	47.1	36.5	31.7	41.3	36.0	25.0	36.2	73.6	36.6
Retirement Plan	37.0	22.6	32.8	42.0	24.9	25.8	34.7	30.2	34.9	43.4	35.6	11.7	18.3	74.5	29.3
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	2.5	1.9	3.2	3.9	1.5	4.8	4.7	2.5	3.2	23.2	4.9	0.7	2.8	53.9	4.3
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	38.6	20.9	30.3	43.5	24.7	25.1	37.3	28.3	32.3	29.4	30.2	11.6	19.0	50.3	27.1

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

Table 4: Percent of Wyoming Jobs Offered Selected Benefits by Industry, 2015Q3

Benefit	Industry														Total
	Natural Resources & Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation & Utilities	Information	Financial Activities	Pro. & Business Services	Education	Health Care & Social Services	Leisure & Hospitality	Other Services	State & Local Government	
Dental Plan	86.9	45.4	71.1	64.5	41.0	72.3	57.9	67.4	39.2	75.0	66.5	24.2	32.5	84.6	57.5
Medical Insurance	91.4	56.4	75.6	73.6	46.2	79.7	62.8	66.5	53.5	85.5	67.3	20.8	36.1	85.7	62.0
Paid Personal Leave	62.6	28.2	47.1	34.7	25.1	41.7	33.9	53.4	37.3	75.1	54.0	15.5	34.4	29.6	39.5
Paid Sick Leave	49.7	11.8	32.9	40.1	32.1	34.0	42.6	43.4	27.9	84.3	43.1	18.9	21.1	83.1	41.6
Paid Vacation Leave	68.6	49.3	66.7	69.0	52.8	61.1	61.3	52.8	42.0	82.3	45.5	33.6	42.2	83.7	56.5
Retirement Plan	84.6	49.8	71.3	72.4	52.4	71.5	62.7	69.3	51.9	85.7	71.9	27.7	36.0	88.8	62.9
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	27.3	2.1	13.6	4.2	2.7	36.0	10.6	6.3	2.2	70.3	15.6	1.1	2.3	80.1	22.2
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	85.8	49.9	77.1	75.6	52.8	71.1	62.9	68.8	48.9	59.7	61.8	23.3	36.0	74.6	57.5

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

proportion of employers who offered paid vacation leave were in state & local government (73.6%), wholesale trade (53.8%), and information (47.1%). Likewise, the largest proportion of employers to offer paid sick leave were in state & local government (70.8%), wholesale trade (34.9%), and information (34.1%).

Larger proportions of jobs in state & local government, natural resources & mining, and education were offered most benefits in comparison to jobs in other industries (see Table 4, page 12). For example, 85.7% of jobs in state & local government and 91.4% of those in natural resources & mining were offered medical insurance, while 20.8% of all jobs in leisure & hospitality were offered the benefit. Although 88.8% of jobs in state & local government and 84.6% of those in natural resources & mining were offered retirement plans, only 27.7% of jobs in leisure & hospitality and 36.0% of those in other services were offered the benefit. The largest proportion of jobs offered paid vacation leave were in state & local government (83.7%), education (82.3%), and wholesale trade (69.0%),

while jobs with the most access to paid sick leave were in state & local government (83.1%), education (84.3%), and natural resources & mining (49.7%).

Substate Region

As shown in Figure 3, Wyoming is broken out into six regions, which includes the Casper and Cheyenne Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). Some businesses had employees spread across the state and could not be placed into a single region; these

companies and employees were combined into a seventh category called *statewide*.

Statewide businesses had the largest proportion of employers who offered any of the benefits, most likely because a greater proportion of larger businesses, in general, offer benefits (see Table 5, page 14). Around one-third of employers in each of the substate regions offered medical insurance. As shown in Table 5, a slightly larger proportion of employers in the Cheyenne

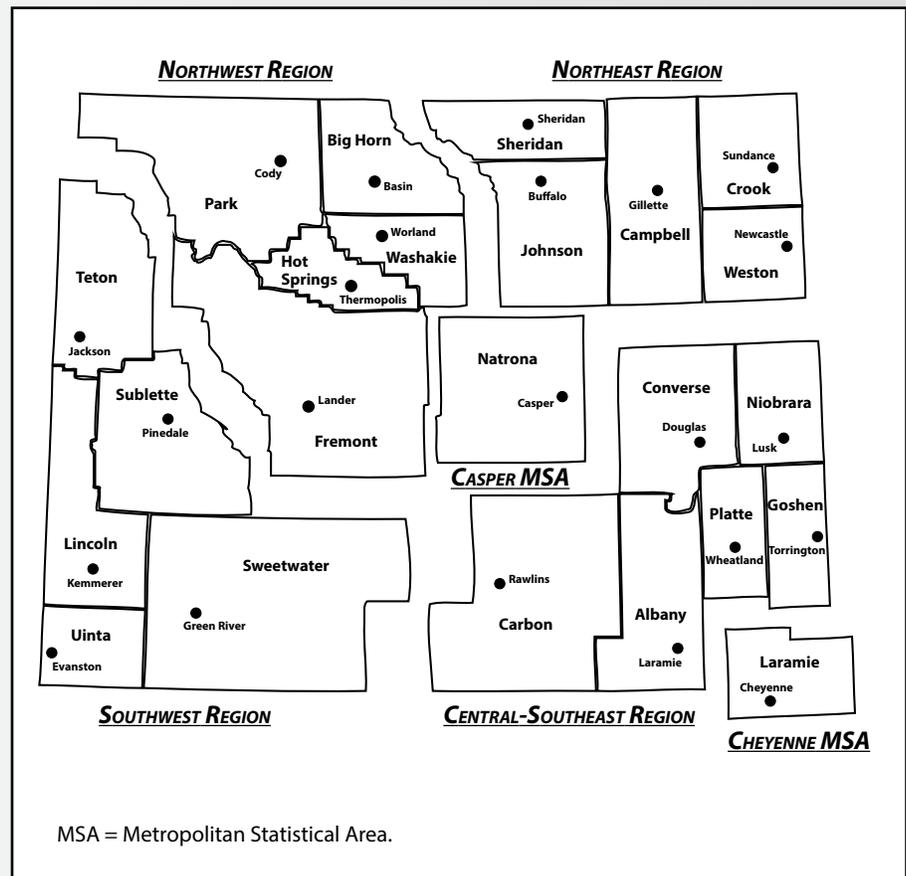


Figure 3: Map of Wyoming's Substate Regions

and Casper MSAs offered retirement plans (29.1% and 29.7%, respectively). The largest proportions of employers offering paid vacation leave were located in the Casper MSA (37.3%), Cheyenne MSA (35.6%), and northeast region (36.2%).

The largest proportions of employers who offered paid sick leave were in the Casper MSA (20.7%), Cheyenne MSA (20.2%), and the central-southeast region (19.2%).

As with employers, the largest

Table 5: Percent of Wyoming Employers Offering Selected Benefits by Substate Region, 2015Q3^a

Benefit	Substate Region						Statewide ^c	Total
	Casper MSA ^b	Cheyenne MSA ^b	Central-Southeast Region	Northeast Region	Northwest Region	Southwest Region		
Dental Plan	23.7	22.2	21.0	22.3	20.0	21.1	51.9	23.4
Medical Insurance	32.6	31.4	29.7	31.2	28.4	30.0	60.3	32.2
Paid Personal Leave	28.0	27.2	25.2	25.9	24.9	25.5	39.4	26.8
Paid Sick Leave	20.7	20.2	19.2	19.1	19.0	18.7	34.7	20.3
Paid Vacation Leave	37.3	35.6	34.9	36.2	34.0	34.8	55.4	36.6
Retirement Plan	29.7	29.1	26.8	27.6	26.2	27.1	55.1	29.3
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	3.6	4.1	4.4	3.7	4.4	3.7	10.5	4.3
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	27.9	26.8	24.3	25.8	23.6	25.1	53.2	27.1

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

^bMSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area.

^c*Statewide* refers to some large businesses that had jobs spread across the state and could not be placed into a single region.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

Table 6: Percent of Wyoming Jobs Offered Selected Benefits by Substate Region, 2015Q3^a

Benefit	Substate Region						Statewide ^c	Total
	Casper MSA ^b	Cheyenne MSA ^b	Central-Southeast Region	Northeast Region	Northwest Region	Southwest Region		
Dental Plan	52.8	52.6	46.9	53.6	48.1	49.0	71.4	57.5
Medical Insurance	58.6	58.5	53.0	59.2	54.1	53.8	73.6	62.0
Paid Personal Leave	40.7	41.1	36.5	40.0	38.5	36.8	40.8	39.5
Paid Sick Leave	37.1	39.2	34.5	35.4	39.1	34.7	51.6	41.6
Paid Vacation Leave	53.8	53.4	50.3	53.3	52.9	51.6	64.4	56.5
Retirement Plan	58.1	58.3	52.3	57.2	53.7	53.8	77.4	62.9
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan	16.9	20.6	18.1	17.5	23.2	16.8	29.3	22.2
Defined Contribution Retirement Plan	53.0	51.9	46.5	54.6	46.8	49.1	71.5	57.5

^aEstimates based on employment between 2013Q4 and 2015Q3.

^bMSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area.

^c*Statewide* refers to some large businesses that had jobs spread across the state and could not be placed into a single region.

Source: Research & Planning, Wyoming DWS. (2016). Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015.

proportion of jobs offered benefits were in companies categorized as statewide (see Table 6). More than half of jobs in all of the substate regions were offered medical insurance benefits, and the largest proportions of jobs offered retirement plans were in the Casper MSA (58.1%), Cheyenne MSA (58.3%), and the northeast region (57.2%). While the largest proportions of jobs offered paid vacation leave were located in the Casper MSA (53.8%), Cheyenne MSA (53.4%), and the northeast region (53.3%), the largest proportion of jobs offered paid sick leave were in the Cheyenne MSA (39.2%), the northwest region (39.1%), and the Casper MSA (37.1%).

Conclusion

Overall, benefits were offered to a larger proportion of full-time jobs than part-time jobs, and jobs in larger companies had more access to benefits than those in smaller companies. The same holds true for employers that offer benefits. A larger proportion of jobs in certain industries, such as state & local government, education, and natural resources & mining are offered benefits. The largest proportion of employers offering benefits and jobs offered benefits were found in the Casper and Cheyenne MSAs, where more state government agencies and larger companies tend to be located, as well as in the northeast region, where a large number of mining jobs were located.

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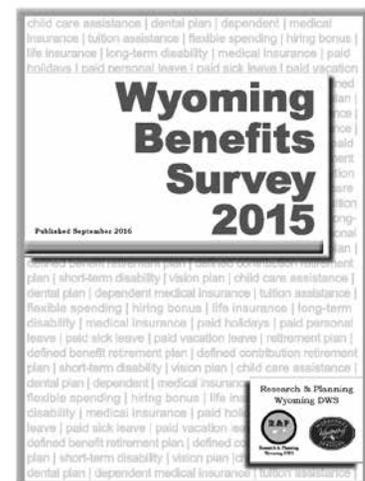
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Wyoming Benefits Survey 2015

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High Earning Community College Programs with Limited Offerings

by: Katelynd Faler, Senior Economist

The table discussed in this article shows some of the most popular and high earning programs offered at fewer than half of Wyoming's community colleges, which may be especially relevant to administrators and policymakers who are interested in extending current programs to additional colleges. Forthcoming reports from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services will allow for a comprehensive approach to workforce outcomes, and may help community colleges and workforce centers better assist students and dislocated workers in selecting appropriate academic and occupational programs throughout Wyoming's business cycles.

In the 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama reinforced the administration's commitment to transparency in postsecondary student outcomes, and the first College Scorecard was released in 2015 with data including average annual tuition rates and student incomes 10 years after enrollment (Turner, 2015).

Wyoming's community colleges are often listed among the most affordable community colleges in the country (Best Value Schools staff, 2015, and Best Value Schools staff, 2016), but student outcome data through the College Scorecard and the related Gainful Employment Disclosures from Subpart Q under Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2014) are limited both due to the number of graduates and the number of students recorded through federal loans and grants.

Numerous data sharing agreements, put R&P in the unique position of being able to accurately evaluate and report student outcomes. These data sharing agreements can be found online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/LMIinfo.htm>.

The table featured in this report (see page 19) was compiled using data that was gathered through those agreements.

Methodology

The table on page 19 was compiled using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Student Clearinghouse, the Wyoming Community College Commission, the Wyoming Department of Education, and Wyoming's Unemployment Insurance Wage Records. Each program offered by a Wyoming community college is assigned a number based on the Classification of Instructional Programs, or CIP code (National Center for Education Statistics, n.d.).

For the research presented in this article, R&P counted the number of graduates for each CIP code and the number of Wyoming community colleges offering programs in that CIP code from the 2006/07 school year (the earliest year for which R&P has data) to the 2015/16 school year. R&P then calculated the median age of the students at graduation, and the nominal median earnings for each CIP code in the fourth quarter (or one year) after graduation. In addition to calculating the percent of graduates employed in Wyoming, R&P also found the percent of graduates who were primarily dependent on the mining, quarrying, & oil

& gas extraction sector for wages in the fourth quarter after graduation. The sector is defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and given the code NAICS 21.

R&P selected the programs for this table based on the following criteria:

1. The program had at least 50 graduates between the 2006/2007 and 2015/2016 school years.
2. The program's students earned at least \$9,000 in the fourth quarter after graduation.
3. At least two thirds (66.6%) of graduates were working in Wyoming after four quarters.
4. The program was offered at three or fewer Wyoming community colleges.

Results

R&P found seven CIP codes that met the previously mentioned criteria:

- Electrical, Electronic, and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician (CIP code 150303)
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologies/Technicians, Other (CIP code 150399)
- Electrical/Electronics Equipment Installation and Repair, General (CIP code 470101)
- Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology (CIP code

470303)

- Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians, Other (CIP code 479999)
- Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist (CIP code 510908)
- Clinical/Medical Laboratory Technician (CIP code 511004)

The electrical/electronics equipment installation and repair program (CIP code 470101), offered at Western Wyoming Community College, had the most graduates (198), while Casper College's electrical, electronic, and communications engineering technology/technician program (CIP code 150303) had the fewest graduates (50). Over time, the graduates from the mechanic and repair technologies/technicians, other program (CIP code 479999) had the highest median earnings in the fourth quarter following graduation with \$20,950, whereas clinical/medical laboratory technician program (CIP code 511004) graduates earned the least (\$9,658).

In general, the greater the median income in the fourth quarter after graduation, the more likely a graduate was to depend on the mining, quarrying, & oil & gas extraction sector as his or her primary source of wages. There were no graduates of the health care programs on this list who were dependent on the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector as their primary source of wages. Graduates of the electrical/electronics equipment installation and repair, general programs (CIP code 470101) were most likely to remain working in Wyoming in the fourth quarter after graduation (80.6%), while graduates of electrical, electronic, and communications

engineering technology/technician program (CIP code 150303) were least likely to remain employed in Wyoming (68.5%).

Conclusion

When considering which new programs to implement at a community college, it is important to account for Wyoming’s changing economy, where there are fewer and less lucrative jobs that exist in the state’s key mining, quarrying, & oil & gas extraction sector. Simply encouraging students to enroll in a program that has a high median wage soon after graduation

can be short sighted if the jobs that provide these wages will no longer be available. Forthcoming reports based on the data available to R&P will allow for a comprehensive approach to workforce outcomes, and may help community colleges and workforce centers better direct both students and workers to appropriate programs throughout Wyoming’s boom-bust cycles.

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Table: High Earning Wyoming Community College Programs with a Large Number of Graduates and a High Degree of Wyoming Workforce Retention

Program Title	CIP ^a Code	Total Graduates 2006/2007 to 2015/2016	Number of Colleges Offering the Program	Median Age at Graduation	Median Quarterly Wages Earned in Wyoming	Percent Employed in Wyoming 4Q after Graduation	Percent Working in Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (NAICS 21)
Electrical, Electronic, and Communications Engineering Technology/Technician	150303	50	1	24	\$9,756	68.5%	6.0%
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologies/ Technicians, Other	150399	131	1	27	\$19,019	79.7%	55.7%
Electrical/Electronics Equipment Installation and Repair, General	470101	198	1	31	\$17,965	80.6%	39.4%
Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology	470303	182	2	30	\$17,804	75.7%	40.7%
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/ Technicians, Other	479999	83	2	33	\$20,950	77.2%	53.0%
Respiratory Care Therapy/Therapist	510908	78	1	26	\$10,662	78.5%	0.0%
Clinical/Medical Laboratory Technician	511004	80	1	26	\$9,658	74.2%	0.0%

^aCIP = Classification of Instructional Programs.

Source: WDQI Warehouse Tabulations.

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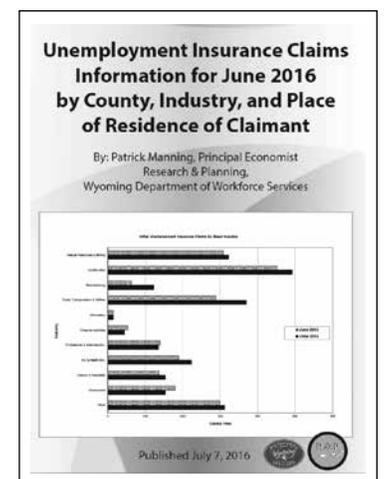
Available Online

Unemployment Insurance Claims Reports

Research & Planning publishes monthly Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims reports, which are available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ui.htm>.

These timely electronic reports are typically published during the first or second week of each month. Each report includes tables and figures that are similar to those published monthly in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (see pages 26 and 27), but in a much more timely fashion.

If you are interested in receiving notification when these UI reports are published, please contact Michael Moore at michael.moore@wyo.gov.



Wyoming Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.7% in June 2016

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 rose slightly from 5.6% in May to 5.7% in June (not a statistically significant change). Wyoming’s unemployment rate was significantly higher than its June 2015 level of 4.2% and significantly higher than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 4.9%.

From May to June, unemployment rates rose in 13 counties, fell in eight counties, and were unchanged in two counties. It is not unusual for unemployment to increase in June as the school year ends and young people start looking for jobs. The largest increases occurred in Albany (up from 2.9% to 4.0%), Platte (up from 4.2% to 5.0%), Big Horn (up from 4.7% to 5.3%), and Converse (up from 6.3% to 6.8%) counties. Unemployment rates fell in Teton (down from 4.6% to 2.6%), Sublette (down from

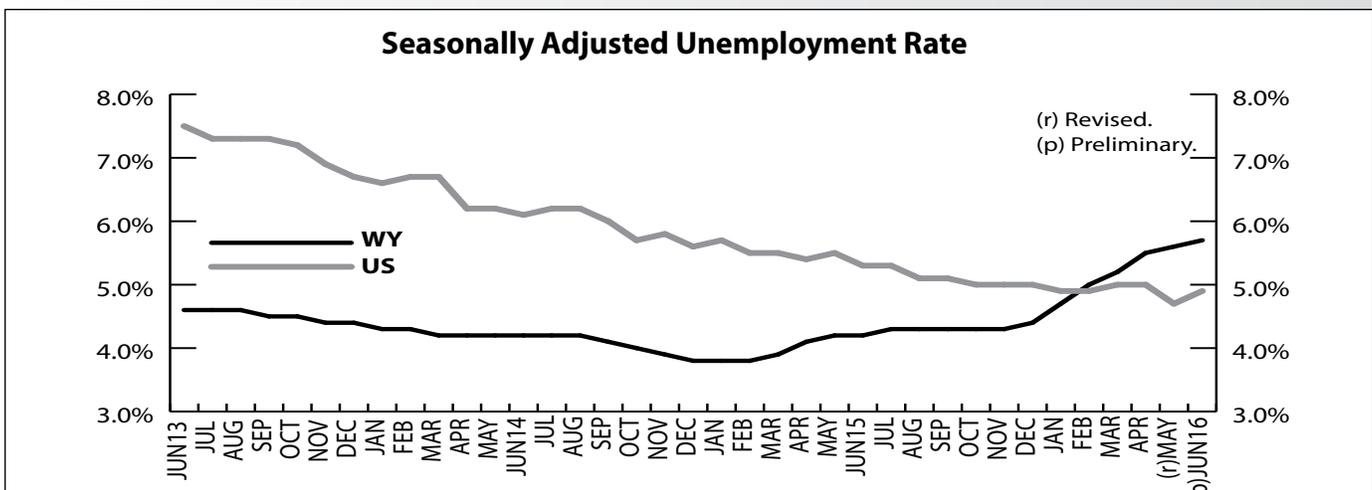
6.1% to 5.7%), and Johnson (down from 5.1% to 4.7%) counties.

From June 2015 to June 2016, unemployment rates increased in almost every county. The largest increases occurred in Campbell (up from 4.2% to 7.8%), Converse (up from 3.9% to 6.8%), Natrona (up from 5.1% to 7.8%), Weston (up from 3.3% to 5.8%), Fremont (up from 5.4% to 7.2%), and Sweetwater (up from 5.1% to 6.8%) counties. Teton County’s unemployment rate fell from 2.9% in June 2015 to 2.6% in June 2016.

Campbell and Natrona counties had the highest unemployment rates in June (both 7.8%). They were followed by Fremont (7.2%), Converse (6.8%), and Sweetwater (6.8%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Teton (2.6%), Niobrara (3.4%), and Goshen (3.7%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted and measured by place of work) fell from 297,200 in June 2015 to 289,600 in June 2016, a decrease of 7,600 jobs (or -2.6%; a statistically significant decrease).

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, June 2016

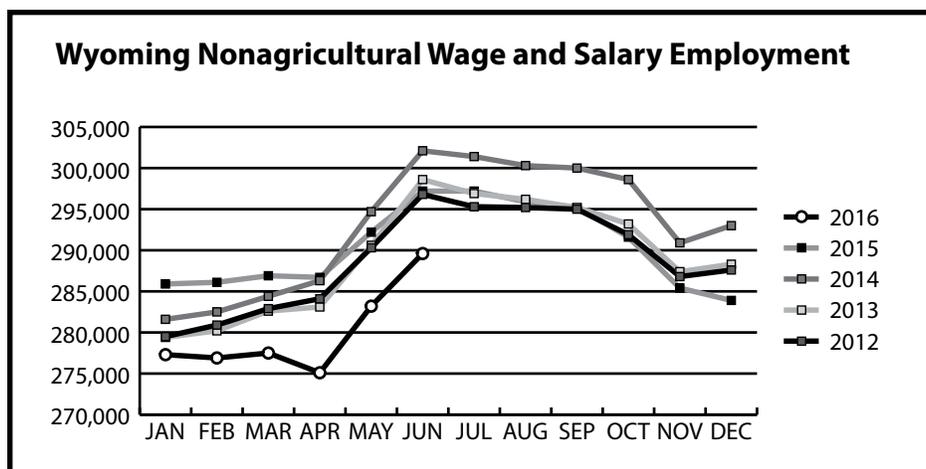
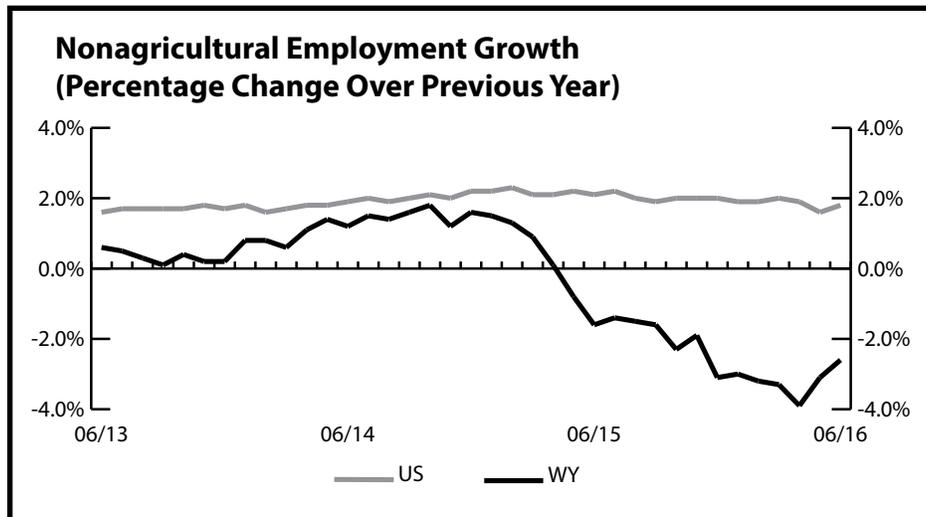
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES)	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	290,510	289,600	-910	-0.3%
Natural Resources & Mining	19,374	18,700	-674	-3.6%
Construction	23,646	22,400	-1,246	-5.6%
Manufacturing	9,577	9,600	23	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	9,060	8,500	-560	-6.6%
Retail Trade	31,300	32,200	900	2.8%
Transportation & Utilities	15,311	14,300	-1,011	-7.1%
Information	3,753	3,700	-53	-1.4%
Financial Activities	10,753	10,700	-53	-0.5%
Professional & Business Services	18,514	19,100	586	3.1%
Educational & Health Services	26,665	27,200	535	2.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	40,192	40,300	108	0.3%
Other Services	10,007	10,500	493	4.7%
Government	72,358	72,400	42	0.1%

Projections were run in May 2016 and based on QCEW data through December 2015.

State Unemployment Rates June 2016 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.2
Alaska	6.7
Nevada	6.4
Illinois	6.2
Louisiana	6.2
New Mexico	6.2
Alabama	6.0
District of Columbia	6.0
West Virginia	6.0
Mississippi	5.9
Arizona	5.8
Connecticut	5.8
Washington	5.8
Wyoming	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.6
Rhode Island	5.5
California	5.4
South Carolina	5.4
Georgia	5.1
New Jersey	5.1
Kentucky	5.0
Ohio	5.0
North Carolina	4.9
United States	4.9
Indiana	4.8
Oklahoma	4.8
Oregon	4.8
Florida	4.7
New York	4.7
Michigan	4.6
Missouri	4.5
Texas	4.5
Maryland	4.3
Delaware	4.2
Massachusetts	4.2
Montana	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Tennessee	4.1
Iowa	4.0
Utah	4.0
Arkansas	3.8
Kansas	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Colorado	3.7
Idaho	3.7
Maine	3.7
Virginia	3.7
Hawaii	3.3
North Dakota	3.2
Vermont	3.2
Nebraska	3.0
New Hampshire	2.8
South Dakota	2.7



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 16
				May 16	Jun 15
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	27.2	26.9	28.8	1.1	-5.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	21.7	21.5	23.4	0.9	-7.3
GOODS PRODUCING	9.2	9.1	10.7	1.1	-14.0
Natural Resources & Mining	6.4	6.4	7.5	0.0	-14.7
Construction	2.3	2.2	2.6	4.5	-11.5
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.0	-16.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.0	17.8	18.1	1.1	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	-1.7
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	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.3	2.4	4.3	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	5.5	5.4	5.4	1.9	1.9

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 16
				May 16	Jun 15
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.2	23.5	24.2	-1.3	-4.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.5	18.5	19.5	0.0	-5.1
GOODS PRODUCING	7.4	7.4	7.9	0.0	-6.3
Natural Resources & Mining	4.4	4.4	5.0	0.0	-12.0
Construction	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.8	16.1	16.3	-1.9	-3.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.7	4.7	5.0	0.0	-6.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.5	2.4	2.5	4.2	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.7	0.7	-14.3	-14.3
GOVERNMENT	4.7	5.0	4.7	-6.0	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 16
				May 16	Jun 15
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.0	18.6	22.1	23.7	4.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	20.3	16.1	19.4	26.1	4.6
GOODS PRODUCING	2.6	2.3	2.3	13.0	13.0
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.4	2.2	2.1	9.1	14.3
Manufacturing	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	20.4	16.3	19.8	25.2	3.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3.2	2.6	3.1	23.1	3.2
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.0	0.9	0.9	11.1	11.1
Professional & Business Services	2.1	1.9	2.0	10.5	5.0
Educational & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Leisure & Hospitality	9.5	6.5	9.3	46.2	2.2
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.7	2.5	2.7	8.0	0.0

State Unemployment Rates June 2016 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.8
Louisiana	7.0
New Mexico	7.0
Alaska	6.8
Mississippi	6.8
Nevada	6.8
Alabama	6.5
Arizona	6.2
District of Columbia	6.1
West Virginia	6.1
Illinois	6.0
Connecticut	5.9
California	5.7
Georgia	5.6
South Carolina	5.6
Washington	5.6
Wyoming	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.5
Kentucky	5.4
Oklahoma	5.3
Oregon	5.3
North Carolina	5.2
Rhode Island	5.1
United States	5.1
Tennessee	5.0
Florida	4.9
Michigan	4.9
Missouri	4.9
New Jersey	4.9
Ohio	4.9
Texas	4.8
Delaware	4.7
Indiana	4.6
Maryland	4.5
New York	4.5
Kansas	4.4
Wisconsin	4.4
Massachusetts	4.3
Arkansas	4.2
Montana	4.2
Utah	4.2
Colorado	4.0
Iowa	4.0
Minnesota	4.0
Virginia	4.0
Hawaii	3.9
Maine	3.7
Idaho	3.6
North Dakota	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Nebraska	3.3
South Dakota	2.8
New Hampshire	2.7

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The amount of benefits paid by Wyoming Unemployment Insurance rose by 41.6% from June 2015 to June 2016.

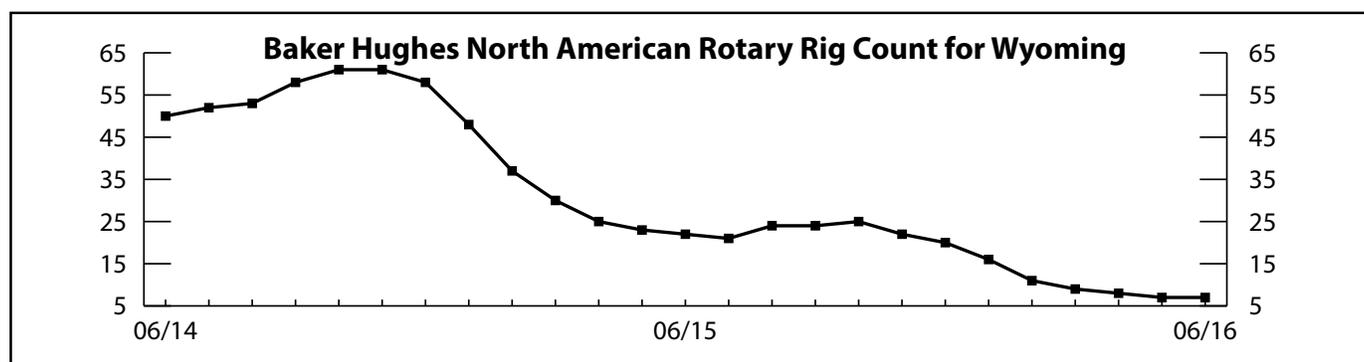
	Jun 2016 (p)	May 2016 (r)	Jun 2015 (b)	Percent Change	
				Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	289,600	283,200	297,200	2.3	-2.6
Wyoming State Government	14,900	15,900	15,100	-6.3	-1.3
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,300	47,000	47,300	0.6	0.0
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	40,100	39,700	42,200	1.0	-5.0
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,059,000	7,472,000	7,025,000	-5.5	0.5
As a percent of all workers	4.6%	4.9%	4.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	502,000	538,000	653,000	-6.7	-23.1
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,119,000	6,238,000	6,776,000	-1.9	-9.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	29,440	27,035	21,442	8.9	37.3
Benefits Paid	\$12,277,637	\$11,240,681	\$8,671,061	9.2	41.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$415.34	\$415.78	\$404.40	-0.1	2.7
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	282,226	274,033	280,018	3.0	0.8
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.6%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	241.0	240.2	238.6	0.3	1.0
Food & Beverages	247.2	247.6	246.2	-0.2	0.4
Housing	244.3	242.8	238.6	0.6	2.4
Apparel	125.5	127.8	125.0	-1.8	0.4
Transportation	200.3	198.6	208.0	0.8	-3.7
Medical Care	462.5	461.4	446.3	0.2	3.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	117.6	117.5	116.4	0.1	1.0
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	138.9	139.0	137.4	-0.1	1.1
Other Goods & Services	422.9	421.9	415.0	0.2	1.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	187.4	185.0	194.8	1.3	-3.8
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	176	232	207	-24.1	-15.0
Valuation	\$55,120,000	\$75,066,000	\$51,109,000	-26.6	7.8
Single Family Homes	171	191	168	-10.5	1.8
Valuation	\$54,386,000	\$70,003,000	\$48,296,000	-22.3	12.6
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	20	12	30	66.7	-33.3
Valuation	\$4,496,000	\$4,938,000	\$7,770,000	-9.0	-42.1
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	41	125	44	-67.2	-6.8
Valuation	\$7,531,000	\$17,486,000	\$6,073,000	-56.9	24.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	7	7	22	0.0	-68.2

(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 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

In June 2016, the highest unemployment rates were reported in Campbell (7.8%) and Natrona (7.8%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jun 2016	May 2016	Jun 2015	Jun 2016	May 2016	Jun 2015	Jun 2016	May 2016	Jun 2015	Jun 2016	May 2016	Jun 2015
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	50,252	48,178	51,399	47,396	45,475	49,097	2,856	2,703	2,302	5.7	5.6	4.5
Big Horn	5,780	5,519	5,933	5,474	5,259	5,686	306	260	247	5.3	4.7	4.2
Fremont	20,502	20,359	20,891	19,016	18,899	19,767	1,486	1,460	1,124	7.2	7.2	5.4
Hot Springs	2,490	2,424	2,494	2,363	2,308	2,394	127	116	100	5.1	4.8	4.0
Park	17,184	15,708	17,601	16,455	15,029	16,959	729	679	642	4.2	4.3	3.6
Washakie	4,296	4,168	4,480	4,088	3,980	4,291	208	188	189	4.8	4.5	4.2
NORTHEAST	54,447	53,392	55,117	51,090	50,005	52,945	3,357	3,387	2,172	6.2	6.3	3.9
Campbell	25,443	25,402	25,950	23,471	23,357	24,870	1,972	2,045	1,080	7.8	8.1	4.2
Crook	3,996	3,769	3,999	3,806	3,577	3,864	190	192	135	4.8	5.1	3.4
Johnson	4,479	4,194	4,520	4,267	3,979	4,322	212	215	198	4.7	5.1	4.4
Sheridan	16,498	16,017	16,559	15,749	15,315	15,934	749	702	625	4.5	4.4	3.8
Weston	4,031	4,010	4,089	3,797	3,777	3,955	234	233	134	5.8	5.8	3.3
SOUTHWEST	61,285	58,365	62,474	58,109	55,113	59,727	3,176	3,252	2,747	5.2	5.6	4.4
Lincoln	8,956	8,455	8,968	8,550	8,062	8,593	406	393	375	4.5	4.6	4.2
Sublette	4,827	4,573	4,883	4,552	4,294	4,643	275	279	240	5.7	6.1	4.9
Sweetwater	21,763	21,985	22,609	20,283	20,604	21,462	1,480	1,381	1,147	6.8	6.3	5.1
Teton	16,254	13,958	16,325	15,827	13,320	15,853	427	638	472	2.6	4.6	2.9
Uinta	9,485	9,394	9,689	8,897	8,833	9,176	588	561	513	6.2	6.0	5.3
SOUTHEAST	80,901	81,775	82,609	77,407	78,766	79,504	3,494	3,009	3,105	4.3	3.7	3.8
Albany	19,677	20,930	20,062	18,889	20,313	19,371	788	617	691	4.0	2.9	3.4
Goshen	7,212	7,039	7,375	6,944	6,789	7,110	268	250	265	3.7	3.6	3.6
Laramie	47,539	47,402	48,629	45,404	45,512	46,706	2,135	1,890	1,923	4.5	4.0	4.0
Niobrara	1,398	1,331	1,405	1,350	1,290	1,364	48	41	41	3.4	3.1	2.9
Platte	5,075	5,073	5,138	4,820	4,862	4,953	255	211	185	5.0	4.2	3.6
CENTRAL	57,959	57,097	60,252	53,819	53,171	57,422	4,140	3,926	2,830	7.1	6.9	4.7
Carbon	8,804	8,375	8,973	8,415	7,994	8,657	389	381	316	4.4	4.5	3.5
Converse	8,379	8,241	8,504	7,809	7,718	8,174	570	523	330	6.8	6.3	3.9
Natrona	40,776	40,481	42,775	37,595	37,459	40,591	3,181	3,022	2,184	7.8	7.5	5.1
STATEWIDE	304,843	298,806	311,850	287,820	282,529	298,696	17,023	16,277	13,154	5.6	5.4	4.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										5.7	5.6	4.2
U.S.....										5.1	4.5	5.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.9	4.7	5.3

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2016. Run Date 07/2016.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

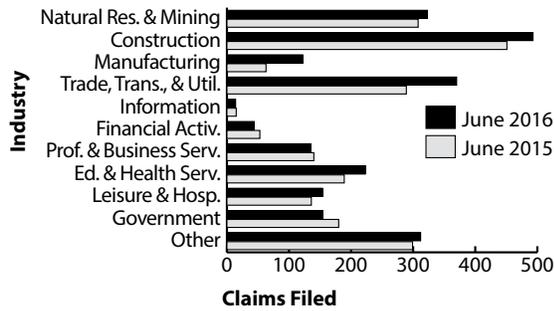
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

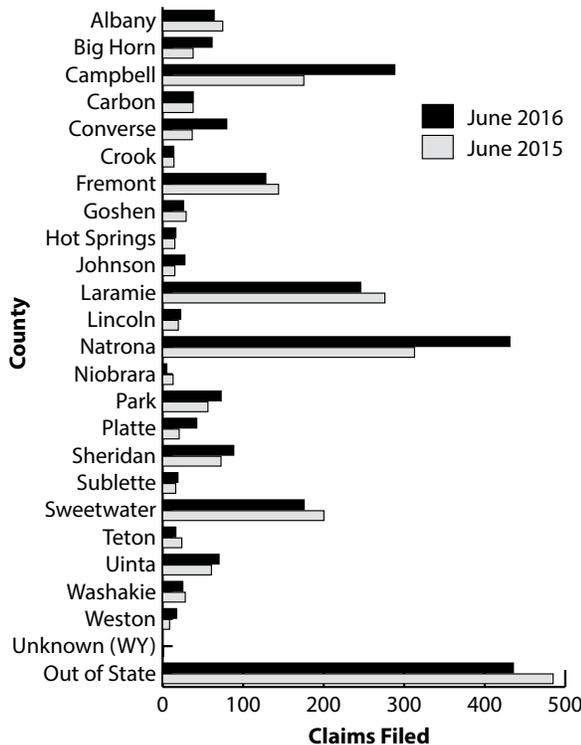
by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

Initial claims increased 10.9% (237 claims) from June 2015. Substantial increases were seen in manufacturing (93.7%, or 59 claims), retail trade (49.5%, or 50 claims), and wholesale trade (47.1%, or 33 claims).

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, June 2016



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, June 2016



Initial Claims

	Claims Filed		Percent Change		Claims Filed
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 16	May 16	
Wyoming Statewide	2,411	2,804	2,174	-14.0	10.9
Total Claims Filed					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	940	1,107	824	-15.1	14.1
Natural Res. & Mining	323	422	308	-23.5	4.9
Mining	310	403	297	-23.1	4.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	17	30	15	-43.3	13.3
Construction	493	575	451	-14.3	9.3
Manufacturing	122	108	63	13.0	93.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,004	1,204	869	-16.6	15.5
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	370	460	289	-19.6	28.0
Wholesale Trade	103	146	70	-29.5	47.1
Retail Trade	151	147	101	2.7	49.5
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	116	167	118	-30.5	-1.7
Information	14	11	15	27.3	-6.7
Financial Activities	44	57	53	-22.8	-17.0
Prof. and Business Svcs.	135	188	140	-28.2	-3.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	223	138	189	61.6	18.0
Leisure & Hospitality	154	273	136	-43.6	13.2
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	58	72	41	-19.4	41.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	154	186	180	-17.2	-14.4
Federal Government	25	31	29	-19.4	-13.8
State Government	16	24	15	-33.3	6.7
Local Government	112	129	136	-13.2	-17.6
Local Education	56	28	77	100.0	-27.3
UNCLASSIFIED	312	306	299	2.0	4.3

Laramie County

	245	298	276	-17.8	-11.2
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	92	109	87	-15.6	5.7
Construction	47	81	81	-42.0	-42.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	128	158	141	-19.0	-9.2
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	51	41	43	24.4	18.6
Financial Activities	8	2	11	300.0	-27.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	12	32	34	-62.5	-64.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	28	36	29	-22.2	-3.4
Leisure & Hospitality	14	28	17	-50.0	-17.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16	17	29	-5.9	-44.8
UNCLASSIFIED	8	14	17	-42.9	-52.9

Natrona County

	431	501	312	-14.0	38.1
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	186	207	142	-10.1	31.0
Construction	80	110	60	-27.3	33.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	219	280	152	-21.8	44.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	86	119	57	-27.7	50.9
Financial Activities	8	13	10	-38.5	-20.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	24	34	28	-29.4	-14.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	42	41	25	2.4	68.0
Leisure & Hospitality	31	45	13	-31.1	138.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12	6	5	100.0	140.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	6	11	100.0	9.1

^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

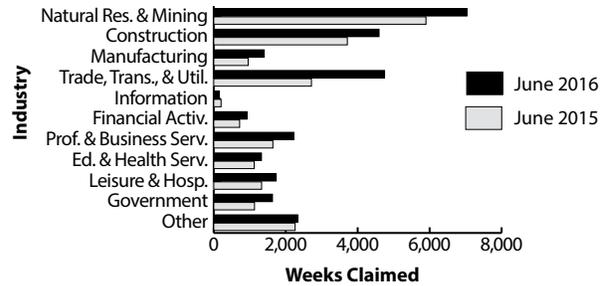
by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

Over the year, the number of unique claimants with continued claims increased 10.6% (681 claimants). Total continued weeks claimed increased by 29.5% (6,575 weeks claimed).

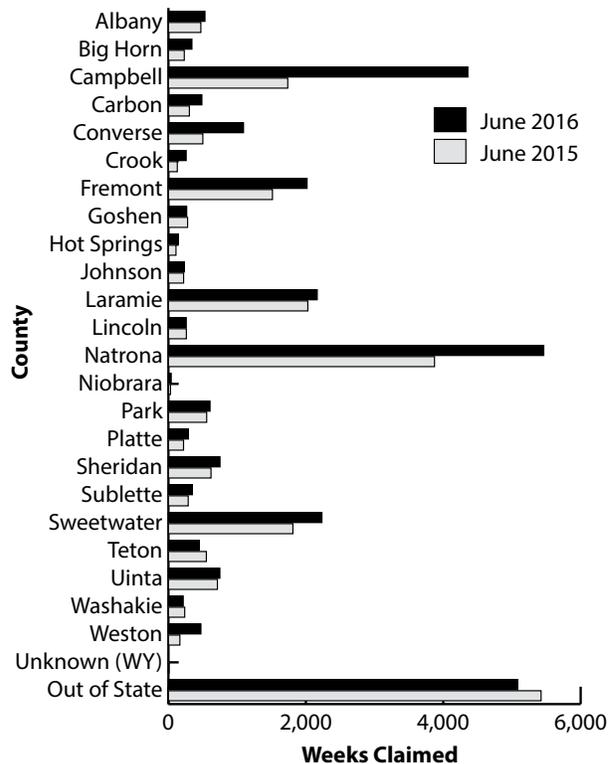
Continued Claims

	Claims Filed		Percent Change		Claims Filed Jun 15
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jun 16	
	Jun 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jun 15	
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	28,868	33,259	22,293	-13.2	29.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	7,112	9,815	6,431	-27.5	10.6
Benefit Exhaustions	548	601	346	-8.8	58.4
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	7.7%	6.1%	5.4%	1.6%	2.3%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Natural Res. & Mining	13,035	15,463	10,568	-15.7	23.3
Mining	7,036	8,030	5,898	-12.4	19.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	6,903	7,891	5,778	-12.5	19.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	617	680	480	-9.3	28.5
Construction	4,595	5,808	3,712	-20.9	23.8
Manufacturing	1,402	1,623	956	-13.6	46.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	11,865	13,609	8,329	-12.8	42.5
Wholesale Trade	4,748	5,210	2,715	-8.9	74.9
Retail Trade	1,641	1,562	716	5.1	129.2
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,298	1,409	819	-7.9	58.5
Information	1,809	2,239	1,180	-19.2	53.3
Financial Activities	148	166	203	-10.8	-27.1
Prof. & Business Svcs.	923	1,035	719	-10.8	28.4
Educational & Health Svcs.	2,228	2,456	1,643	-9.3	35.6
Leisure and Hospitality	1,326	946	1,123	40.2	18.1
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	1,735	2,941	1,330	-41.0	30.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
Federal Government	749	847	587	-11.6	27.6
State Government	1,632	1,803	1,133	-9.5	44.0
Local Government	252	484	235	-47.9	7.2
Local Education	208	214	206	-2.8	1.0
Local Education	1,170	1,104	690	6.0	69.6
Local Education	279	161	173	73.3	61.3
UNCLASSIFIED	2,334	2,383	2,261	-2.1	3.2
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,165	2,340	2,028	-7.5	6.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	537	723	609	-25.7	-11.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	586	773	613	-24.2	-4.4
Construction	329	479	375	-31.3	-12.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,268	1,187	1,109	6.8	14.3
Financial Activities	433	442	340	-2.0	27.4
Prof. & Business Svcs.	79	83	82	-4.8	-3.7
Educational and Health Svcs.	244	248	217	-1.6	12.4
Leisure & Hospitality	224	156	249	43.6	-10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	166	124	114	33.9	45.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
UNCLASSIFIED	194	264	195	-26.5	-0.5
UNCLASSIFIED	116	114	109	1.8	6.4
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	5,462	6,078	3,873	-10.1	41.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,333	1,798	1,093	-25.9	22.0
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING					
Construction	2,494	3,005	2,019	-17.0	23.5
Construction	755	1,076	441	-29.8	71.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING					
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	2,772	2,854	1,652	-2.9	67.8
Financial Activities	1,315	1,362	636	-3.5	106.8
Professional & Business Svcs.	226	283	165	-20.1	37.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	405	431	360	-6.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	330	254	199	29.9	65.8
Leisure & Hospitality	254	242	116	5.0	119.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT					
UNCLASSIFIED	109	90	82	21.1	32.9
UNCLASSIFIED	86	127	117	-32.3	-26.5

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, June 2016



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, June 2016



^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.

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