

# TRENDS

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Research &amp; Planning

## Potential Impacts of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Employer-Provided Benefits in Wyoming

*by: Sarah Trimmer, Research Intern*

*Passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) has generated considerable speculation about the act's full effects on employment and businesses, but scant conclusive evidence exists. When the law is fully implemented, businesses with fewer than 50 employees would not be required to provide health insurance to workers, although they may qualify for tax credits if they choose to do so. While more than 96% of firms in the Wyoming employ fewer than 50 employees, nearly three-fourths of all full-time workers in the state are employed by firms with more than 100 employees. Using data from the Wyoming Benefits Survey and other state and federal data, in addition to previous research related to health care mandates in other states, this article explores the PPACA's possible effects on employment in the state.*

Extensive analyses have suggested how states will respond to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, Public Law 111-148, often referred to as "Obamacare") and implement provisions of the law, but conclusive evidence related to how these changes may affect private businesses of various sizes is scarce.

coverage to more working, non-elderly Americans while offsetting costs that would otherwise be shifted to state budgets, PPACA requirements vary, depending on the number of employees a company has. For example, employers with fewer than 50 employees are not required to offer health insurance to their workers. However, in the

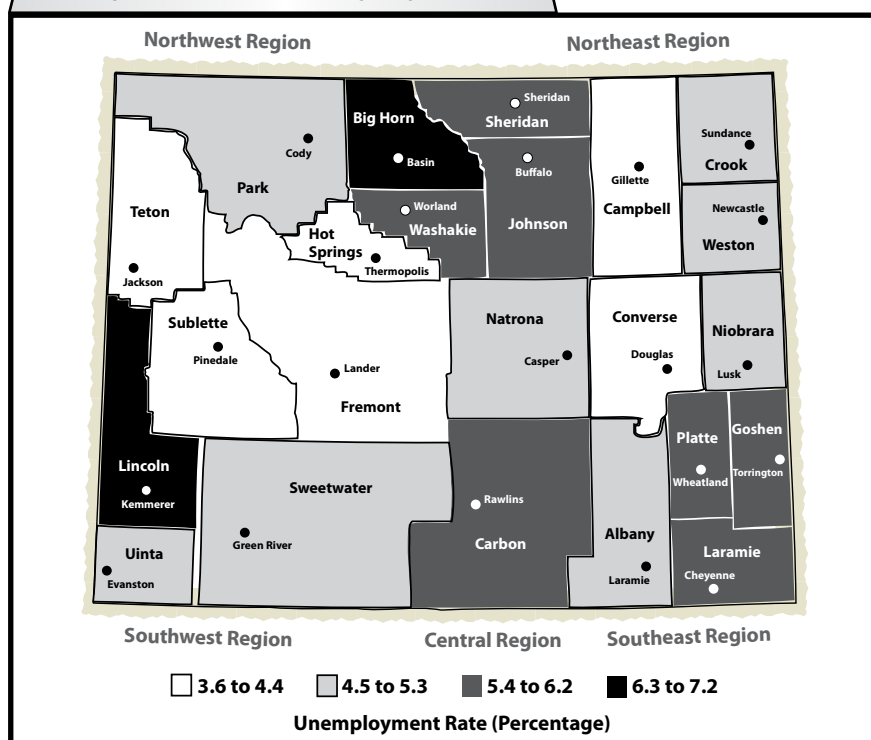
Intended to expand health insurance

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of full-time jobs with access to benefits increased from 2010 to 2011. However, this number was still considerably lower than in 2008, before Wyoming entered an economic downturn. ... *page 21*
- The total number of occupational fatalities in Wyoming decreased from 33 in 2010 to 29 in 2011. ... *page 22*

### Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, July 2012 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



## IN THIS ISSUE

The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Wyoming's Employers and Workforce .....	1
Wyoming Benefits Survey 2012 Available Soon .....	21
Wyoming Occupational Fatalities Decrease in 2011 .....	22
2008 CFI Fatality Rates: Accuracy vs. Timeliness .....	24
Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2010 and 2011 .....	28
Wyoming Jobless Rate Increases to 5.6% in July 2012 .....	29
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, July 2012 .....	30
State Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted) .....	30
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment .....	31
Economic Indicators .....	32
Wyoming County Unemployment Rates .....	33
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims .....	34
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims .....	35

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**Joan Evans, Director**

### Research & Planning

P.O. Box 2760

Casper, WY 82602-2760

dws-researchplanning@wyo.gov

307-473-3807

**Tom Gallagher, Manager**

**Tony Glover, Workforce  
Information Supervisor**

**Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor  
Statistics Programs Supervisor**

**Phil Ellsworth, Editor**

**Michael Moore, Associate Editor**

**Editorial Committee: David Bullard,  
Valerie A. Davis, Phil Ellsworth, and  
Michael Moore**

Contributors to *Wyoming Labor  
Force Trends* this month: David Bullard, Carola  
Cowan, Margaret Hiatt, Sarah Trimmer, and  
Sherry Wen.

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(Text continued from page 1)

first phase of implementation (expiring in 2013), small businesses with fewer than 25 employees whose average annual wage is less than \$50,000 per full-time equivalent may qualify for a tax credit to provide health insurance (IRS, 2010). For the second phase (beginning January 1, 2014, when full implementation of the law is activated), eligible small businesses that purchase insurance through a state health exchange will be provided with a tax credit, if the employer contributes at least 50% of the premium.

Conversely, medium and large businesses that employ more than 50 workers will be required to provide affordable health insurance coverage to their employees. Failure to do so will result in an assessed penalty of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per employee, excluding the first 30 employees. Opponents of this element of the law argue that high costs associated with providing health insurance may cause some employers to discontinue offering employer-sponsored health insurance, suggesting that businesses will instead opt to pay the PPACA penalties. The movement from private to public insurance, termed crowd-out, would drive workers to obtain coverage individually via a state-based health exchange or expanded Medicaid program based on income. Others contend employer-mandated insurance may cause reductions or eliminations of other benefits offered such as retirement, or possibly trigger shedding of jobs through layoffs or attrition.

The purpose of this study is to provide context to the possible effects of the PPACA on Wyoming's private-sector by examining employers by employment size, industry, and benefits offered to

employees. From those data, this article will envision the economic implications of the PPACA on employers by exploring how they might respond to requirements given their size; will they shift costs from other benefits currently offered, reduce wages, or restructure their workforce? By extension, possible resulting impacts on the workforce will also be considered by examining the composition of the workforce, the types of jobs available in Wyoming, and the impact of nonresident workers. Suggestions for further research and strategies will also be provided.

## Review of the Literature

Because mandated employer-sponsored health insurance is unfamiliar terrain for most states, there have been few examples of research on the policy impact and its effect on the behavior of businesses after they are required to offer health insurance to their workers. A recent study examined the only state example that has compiled more than two decades worth of data from Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act passed in 1979, which requires all private-sector employers to provide coverage to employees working more than 20 hours per week (Buchmueller, DiNardo, Valetta, 2011). Labor market indicators such as wages, employment, hours, and benefits revealed that the law increased insurance coverage for workforce groups with traditionally low rates of coverage in the voluntary market. Further, the assertion that the mandates reduce wages and employment probabilities was not proven; the changes were not statistically significant, although a greater reliance on part-time workers was a noted detectable effect.

One concern about PPACA was that



employers might scale back or eliminate employer-sponsored health insurance, thereby causing a transfer to public plans. However, a study examining employer response to mandated coverage in the 2006 Massachusetts reform initiative indicated employer coverage increased, even though the consequence for not offering insurance was slight (\$295 per employee) compared to the PPACA penalty (Long, Stockley, Dahlen, 2012). According to a statewide survey, 94.2% of non-elderly residents reported being covered in 2010, compared to 86.6% in 2006. The percentage reporting coverage through an employer rose from 64.4% to 68.0% over the same period. Another study (Seiber and Florence, 2010) examined the impact of an expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program and found an increase in dependent coverage in the small group market, with no significant movement from private plans. Consistent with those findings, Gabel and Whitemore (2008) conducted a randomized survey of 1,056 Massachusetts firms that indicated only 3% of firms were planning to drop coverage, a proportion similar to national figures suggesting that public plans will not experience a flooded market caused by crowd-out effects.

Because data related to employers' responses to mandated employer-sponsored health insurance are scarce, analyses projecting a variety of outcomes have been published. One study (Sinaiko, 2004) examined the possible effects of a proposed 2003 California play-or-pay law (SB2) that would have required employers to expand health insurance coverage for a portion of the state's working uninsured population. The study forecast labor market responses such as reduced wages, increased prices, changes in the workforce, and potential for adverse selection. Examples of adverse selection might include people who buy insurance

policies knowing that their risk is greater than normal, or people in lower-risk groups (e.g., young non-smokers) leaving the risk pool because they can find less expensive alternatives. Policy analysis of SB2 examined the possible effects of an 83% to 100% shift in wages as well as cost-containment strategies that could include price increases in products and services that are relatively fixed, restructuring the workforce to reduce part-time workers (more costly to insure), using overtime more frequently instead of hiring more workers, or reducing the size of the workforce. Without an individual mandate, it was projected that fewer workers would become insured.

## Methodology

### *Employer Size Class and Benefits Methodology*

Employer requirements of the PPACA are established by firm size. To determine the number of employers in the state by size, the number of unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) accounts was queried using 2011 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)<sup>1</sup> data. Employer size classes were defined by the number of employees in the fourth quarter of 2011 and were grouped by fewer than 50, 50-59, 60-79, 80-99, and more than 100 employees per firm. Rather than classify employers by fewer than 50 and more than 100, size categories of employers were

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<sup>1</sup> Data for QCEW come from UI-covered employment records. Approximately 91% of employment is covered by unemployment insurance in Wyoming, making it a near-census of employment in the states (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2011). Among the types of firms excluded are railroads and some agriculture operations. For a complete list of businesses excluded from coverage, go to the Technical Appendix of "Wyoming 2000 Annual Covered Employment and Wages" at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/00202pub/tech\\_app.htm](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/00202pub/tech_app.htm).

chosen for discussion purposes to gauge the various decisions firms may apply, and determine how many businesses would potentially be involved. For example, how many firms with 50 to 59 workers that currently do not offer health insurance may be compelled to eliminate positions to maintain a firm size of less than 50 to avoid penalties and having to offer mandated health coverage?

In 2011, benefits survey questionnaires were completed by 2,031 Wyoming employers including both the private-sector and state & local government (Leonard & Saulcy, 2012). In total, these employers represented 9.3% of Wyoming's firms. The results specific to the 2011 benefits survey questionnaire presented in Table 1 are actual sample responses, rather than extrapolated estimates for the entire population of employers. It should be noted that Research & Planning (R&P) uses a model that classifies business sizes by 1-4, 5-9, 10-19, 20-49 and 50+ employees to generalize responses to the entire population. Because of this, the capability to make accurate estimations of the newly defined size classifications (<50, 50-59, 60-79, 80-99, >100) for this particular study is not possible. Data presented in tables 3, 4, and 5 use generalized population estimates from 2011 benefits survey information. For a full description of the methodology to determine estimates, refer to the methods section of the Wyoming Benefits Survey (2011).

### ***Workforce Demographics and Employment Methodology***

Historical demographic data were analyzed to identify trends related to the composition of the workforce by gender, wages, proportion of nonresident workers,

**Table 1: Wyoming Benefits Survey Response Rate, by Number of Employees, 2011**

<b>Firm Size</b>	<b>Returned Surveys</b>	<b>Total Firms</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Employees</b>
<50	1,859	21,068	8.8%	15,767
50-59	24	140	17.1%	1,299
60-79	25	166	15.1%	1,699
80-99	28	89	31.5%	2,492
>100	95	418	22.7%	50,992
<b>All Sizes</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>21,881</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>72,249</b>

industry sectors, and county employment information using longitudinal labor market information collected by R&P.

Additionally, 2011 income data stratified by age, gender, and industry sector were analyzed to make reasonable approximations regarding the number of resident workers who theoretically would have met the definition of low-income and may have qualified for coverage under an expanded Medicaid program. For discussion purposes, the 2011 Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines (used to determine financial eligibility of Medicaid programs) were used to define those living in poverty at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), or earning an annual income of \$10,890 for individuals and \$22,350 for a family of four. Low-income individuals, who will gain coverage January 1, 2014 under an expanded Medicaid program, will be defined as those earning an annual income of between 100% and 138% FPL. The PPACA will apply what is called a standard disregard that will exclude 5% of an individual's income, making the de facto threshold for eligibility 138% rather than 133% FPL. Using 2011 HHS poverty guidelines, that means individuals with an annual income of \$15,028 (138% FPL; equivalent to a full-time job paying a minimum wage of \$7.25

per hour) and a family of four earning \$30,843 or less are considered low income.

## Results

### Employer Size Composition

In fourth quarter 2011, Wyoming had 21,881 unique and active Unemployment Insurance (UI) accounts. Of those, 21,068 (96.3%) were employers with fewer than 50 workers; 395 UI accounts were linked to employers with a workforce between 50 and 99; and the remaining 418 businesses employed more than 100 employees. Table 2 shows the distribution of firms by size and industry sector. The three largest industry sectors in terms of number of firms in the state were construction (3,534

firms, 16.2% of all firms), professional & business services (4,011, 18.3%), and trade, transportation, & utilities (4,063, 18.6%); these three sectors accounted for more than half (53.1%) of all firms in Wyoming.

### Employer Sponsored Benefits

Data from the 2011 Wyoming Benefits Survey (Research & Planning, 2011) showed that among firms with more than 50 employees, 91.4% offered health insurance, and as the number of employees decreased below 50, the percentage of workers offered benefits also declined. The survey also revealed that the majority of direct compensation costs (84.6%) were tied to wages and salaries, whereas 5.0% of indirect total compensation consisted of defined-benefit

Table 2: Wyoming Firms by Industry Sector and Number of Employees, Fourth Quarter 2011

	Number of Employees per Firm										Total Firms n	% of All Firms %
	<50		50-59		60-79		80-99		>100			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Total Responses	21,068	100.0%	140	100.0%	166	100.0%	89	100.0%	418	100.0%	21,881	100.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	1,342	6.4%	10	7.1%	17	10.2%	15	16.9%	54	12.9%	1,438	6.6%
Construction	3,480	16.5%	11	7.9%	16	9.6%	5	5.6%	22	5.3%	3,534	16.2%
Manufacturing	543	2.6%	4	2.9%	7	4.2%	7	7.9%	22	5.3%	583	2.7%
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	3,917	18.6%	30	21.4%	40	24.1%	12	13.5%	63	15.1%	4,063	18.6%
Information	281	1.3%	5	3.6%	8	4.8%	2	2.2%	6	1.4%	302	1.4%
Financial Activities	1,689	8.0%	12	8.6%	9	5.4%	5	5.6%	12	2.9%	1,727	7.9%
Prof. & Business Services	3,972	18.9%	11	7.9%	15	9.0%	2	2.2%	11	2.6%	4,011	18.3%
Educational & Health Services	1,798	8.5%	24	17.1%	22	13.3%	10	11.2%	115	27.5%	1,970	9.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,999	9.5%	25	17.9%	23	13.9%	17	19.1%	48	11.5%	2,113	9.7%
Other Services	1,767	8.4%	3	2.1%	2	1.2%	2	2.2%	6	1.4%	1,780	8.1%
Public Admin. (State & Local Government)	280	1.3%	5	3.6%	7	4.2%	12	13.5%	59	14.1%	363	1.7%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

and defined-contribution plans, and 10.4% was allocated to medical, dental, and vision insurance plans.

Frequencies of responses from the 2011 benefits survey were computed (see Table 1). Consistent with previous findings, full-time employees who work in firms with a workforce of more than 50 employees are

more likely to work for employers that offer insurance, than are part-time workers in smaller firms with less than 50 employees (see Table 3).

Table 4 (see page 8) represents generalized data from the 2008 through 2011 benefits surveys to generate approximations across all employers

**Table 3: Estimated Number and Percentage of Firms Offering, Workers Offered, and Workers Enrolled in Employer-Provided Health Insurance and Dependent Health Insurance Coverage in Wyoming, 2011**

	Firm Size (by Number of Employees)					Total, All Firm Sizes
	<50	50-59	60-79	80-99	>100	
Full-Time Employment	18.9%	1.5%	2.3%	3.2%	74.2%	100.0%
	43,039	3,452	5,193	7,249	169,085	228,018
Total Firms	96.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	1.7%	
	22,351	157	167	89	397	23,161
Firms Offering Health Insurance	40.8%	95.8%	76.0%	96.4%	97.9%	
	9,119	150	127	86	389	9,871
Workers Offered Health Insurance	60.1%	88.5%	81.9%	95.0%	93.9%	
	25,867	3,055	4,253	6,887	158,771	198,832
Workers Enrolled in Health Insurance	12.2%	1.4%	1.9%	3.6%	81.0%	
	5,242	49	97	258	136,897	142,543
Firms Offering Dependent Health Insurance	33.6%	95.8%	76.0%	89.3%	97.9%	
	7,510	150	127	79	389	8,255
Workers Offered Dependent Health Insurance	52.3%	86.4%	79.8%	89.5%	92.0%	
	22,510	2,982	4,144	6,488	155,558	191,682
Part-Time Employment	36.4%	3.2%	2.7%	4.8%	52.9%	100.0%
	16,770	1,476	1,252	2,204	24,346	46,048
Firms Offering Health Insurance	2.9%	20.8%	0.0%	10.7%	28.4%	
	648	33	0	10	113	803
Workers Offered Health Insurance	4.0%	14.1%	0.0%	2.6%	24.5%	
	671	208	0	57	5,965	6,901
Workers Enrolled in Health Insurance	10.5%	4.9%	0.0%	0.8%	83.9%	
	1,762	72	0	17	20,418	22,268
Firms Offering Dependent Health Insurance	2.1%	16.7%	0.0%	10.7%	27.4%	
	469	26	0	10	109	614
Workers Offered Dependent Health Insurance	3.6%	6.4%	0.0%	2.6%	17.3%	
	604	94	0	57	4,212	4,967

Source: Wyoming Benefits Survey.



for full- and part-time workers, while Table 5 (see page 9) shows the estimated percentage of workers offered selected benefits by full- or part-time working status and industry sector. Workers classified as full-time employees in construction, leisure & hospitality, and other services are less likely to receive selected benefits, whereas those employed in mining, state & local government, and educational & health services are more likely to be offered selected benefits, specifically health insurance.

## Workforce

The PPACA expands access to medicaid care for the non-elderly workforce through several mechanisms, including the expansion of Medicaid to low-income

individuals who earn incomes up to 138% of the FPL, and through health insurance exchanges that act as marketplaces for small employers and individuals to purchase coverage. In Wyoming, these two reforms will have the most significant impact on the workforce as most employers will not be required to provide health insurance coverage because of firm size. Examining the composition of the workforce by wages, gender, age, industry sectors, and the impact of nonresident workers are important factors to consider.

According to Wyoming wage records, in 2011 the average annual wage in Wyoming was \$32,219, with men earning \$43,989 and women earning \$25,719

(Text continued on page 10)

**Table 4: Percentage of Employers Offering Selected Benefits to Their Full- and Part-Time Employees in Wyoming, 2008-2011**

Benefit Type	Full-Time				Part-Time			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Child Care	2.6%	1.7%	2.5%	2.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%
Dental Plan	27.2%	28.3%	29.2%	30.7%	3.3%	4.1%	3.4%	5.3%
Dependent Health Insurance	34.3%	36.1%	35.5%	34.9%	2.7%	4.8%	3.9%	4.7%
Educational/Tuition Assistance	23.2%	21.9%	22.2%	22.9%	10.8%	7.5%	8.7%	9.4%
Flexible Spending Account	9.9%	11.8%	12.2%	11.4%	1.8%	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%
<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
Hiring Bonus	6.4%	6.2%	4.9%	5.2%	1.6%	1.1%	0.6%	1.3%
Life Insurance	26.9%	28.0%	27.5%	27.7%	4.6%	4.1%	3.5%	4.0%
Long-Term Disability	11.2%	12.5%	12.7%	12.7%	2.0%	1.6%	1.8%	2.1%
Paid Holidays	55.5%	54.7%	56.0%	54.8%	18.1%	17.6%	17.7%	15.8%
Paid Personal Leave	23.6%	30.6%	25.3%	20.6%	6.9%	6.8%	6.2%	5.5%
Paid Sick Leave	26.9%	28.7%	27.8%	27.7%	5.5%	6.7%	5.1%	5.1%
Paid Vacation	55.3%	56.0%	52.7%	49.5%	12.9%	11.9%	11.3%	10.7%
<b>Retirement Plan</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
Short-Term Disability	11.9%	12.0%	12.3%	13.4%	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%	2.4%
Vision Plan	15.5%	16.6%	17.8%	18.5%	1.8%	2.3%	3.5%	3.5%

Source: Wyoming Benefits Survey.



Table 5: Percentage of Full- and Part-Time Employees Offered Selected Benefits in Wyoming by Industry, 2011

Benefit Type	Industry											
	All Industries	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transp., & Utilities	Information	Financial Activities	Prof. & Business Services	Educational & Health Svcs.	Leisure & Hospitality	Other Services	State & Local Govt.
<b>Full-Time Employees</b>												
Child Care	9.1	6.3	2.5	3.5	0.1	0.5	0.2	2.7	16.1	24.9	3.8	21.6
Dental Plan	70.4	86.0	47.2	74.2	62.9	81.7	73.2	52.9	84.6	31.6	50.4	96.5
Dependent Health Insurance	73.9	89.5	51.1	80.9	71.1	83.5	73.7	61.9	84.3	32.5	57.2	96.6
Educational/Tuition Assistance	51.8	76.8	28.1	68.5	44.0	21.4	51.1	36.8	64.1	17.0	17.6	69.7
Flexible Spending Account	51.9	72.7	17.8	57.2	34.5	32.3	55.9	34.7	75.0	32.1	30.1	66.5
Health Insurance	77.7	91.0	57.3	85.6	75.5	86.7	79.9	70.5	87.8	34.6	62.8	97.0
Hiring Bonus	19.6	67.2	8.1	11.6	12.2	2.0	27.1	3.6	21.0	9.7	4.0	0.1
Life Insurance	68.8	86.6	45.4	80.7	60.3	61.1	70.1	52.9	81.4	29.0	50.6	95.6
Long-Term Disability	46.8	76.1	18.5	64.8	33.7	41.9	64.0	28.9	60.7	11.8	24.5	56.8
Paid Holidays	78.9	90.7	62.5	93.9	80.3	93.1	89.3	79.3	84.4	19.9	66.2	99.5
Paid Personal Leave	35.2	40.6	29.8	19.0	40.0	50.7	44.3	27.7	45.9	11.4	24.2	27.9
Paid Sick Leave	50.9	59.4	17.3	52.6	35.3	41.7	53.9	41.6	72.6	40.8	20.4	73.0
Paid Vacation	73.0	85.0	49.6	89.9	73.3	53.0	72.3	63.7	78.0	66.0	74.0	73.5
Retirement Plan	73.4	87.8	61.5	86.3	65.7	79.5	80.0	71.9	83.6	44.5	52.0	76.2
Short-Term Disability	39.8	73.3	23.9	62.1	30.3	44.1	53.9	27.1	42.9	14.7	31.7	32.2
Vision Plan	56.2	80.8	28.6	51.3	42.1	67.6	56.0	37.2	71.8	22.2	35.5	86.2
<b>Part-Time Employees</b>												
Child Care	6.6	2.3	1.2	3.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	11.4	12.4	0.0	7.2
Dental Plan	9.9	5.8	1.7	7.4	7.4	2.8	17.7	6.3	21.9	3.8	0.8	12.2
Dependent Health Insurance	8.1	5.3	1.9	7.4	7.1	1.4	13.0	4.0	16.2	3.7	0.4	11.7
Educational/Tuition Assistance	12.8	15.5	7.9	20.5	3.9	0.4	18.2	8.3	29.2	11.1	3.0	4.6
Flexible Spending Account	9.7	9.2	0.9	7.4	0.6	1.1	17.0	1.8	35.3	4.0	0.4	15.3
Health Insurance	9.7	6.5	2.0	7.4	9.8	2.8	11.2	4.0	20.6	3.7	2.4	11.8
Hiring Bonus	1.7	6.8	0.0	8.4	0.2	0.0	5.8	0.8	2.7	2.6	0.0	0.0
Life Insurance	9.3	6.7	1.9	7.4	8.3	4.3	12.2	5.3	19.4	2.3	1.7	17.0
Long-Term Disability	4.9	5.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	2.2	5.0	14.7	0.5	0.4	10.9
Paid Holidays	19.7	14.0	9.2	20.0	15.6	4.4	24.4	18.9	35.5	10.6	12.2	26.3
Paid Personal Leave	13.0	15.6	2.3	0.5	0.2	1.4	22.5	6.1	43.0	4.5	9.5	0.1
Paid Sick Leave	14.7	9.0	2.7	1.6	6.1	0.0	15.3	4.3	43.4	2.0	3.5	22.6
Paid Vacation	14.6	17.2	2.5	10.9	4.7	2.6	22.5	12.9	20.9	16.9	12.5	22.9
Retirement Plan	24.9	17.2	3.7	19.6	17.0	19.1	32.9	18.9	52.9	14.3	7.3	20.7
Short-Term Disability	4.6	5.8	0.2	0.0	0.2	4.3	2.3	6.4	13.6	0.8	0.4	5.8
Vision Plan	7.9	5.8	2.2	7.4	1.7	0.4	6.7	2.2	21.2	4.3	1.2	12.2

Source: Wyoming Benefits Survey.

(Text continued from page 8)

annually (Earnings in Wyoming, 2012). The average annual wage of \$32,219 was driven down due to the high proportion of nonresident workers (17.7%) who earned what was considered low income (\$16,579). According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS), the median annual income in Wyoming is \$53,236. CPS data are based on a household survey, unlike Wyoming wage records data. Table 6 summarizes 2011 earnings by gender and age. Women age 20-24 were more likely to be classified as low-income earners than were men in the same age group, mostly due to the large proportion of men in industries that pay higher wages, such as mining or construction. Excluding ages 0-19 and 65 and older, the largest proportion of low-income earners was in the 20-24 age group, with women consistently earning less in all industry sectors. Table 7 (see page 11) shows the number of women and men in the 20-24 age range and their average annual wages by industry. Shaded areas depict average annual wages at or around the 2011 poverty threshold of 138% FPL (\$15,028). To

**Table 6: Average Earnings in Wyoming by Age Group and Gender, All Counties, 2011**

Gender	Age	n	Age %	Gender %	Average Annual Wage
Women	0-19	9,461	7.1%		\$4,591
	20-24	14,921	11.1%		\$12,342
	25-34	28,852	21.5%		\$23,768
	35-44	24,310	18.1%		\$30,504
	45-54	28,387	21.2%		\$33,351
	55-64	22,218	16.6%		\$33,281
	65+	5,991	4.5%		\$18,167
	Nonresident*	7	0.0%		\$18,943
	<b>Total</b>	<b>134,147</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>37.8%</b>	<b>\$25,719</b>
Men	0-19	9,698	6.2%		\$5,940
	20-24	16,992	10.8%		\$20,644
	25-34	37,150	23.6%		\$39,972
	35-44	30,069	19.1%		\$51,554
	45-54	31,557	20.0%		\$57,284
	55-64	24,777	15.7%		\$57,845
	65+	7,256	4.6%		\$33,614
	Nonresident*	10	0.0%		\$35,650
	<b>Total</b>	<b>157,509</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>\$43,989</b>
Nonresident*	0-19	22	0.0%		\$37,966
	20-24	33	0.1%		\$17,199
	25-34	461	0.7%		\$43,875
	35-44	535	0.9%		\$53,490
	45-54	482	0.8%		\$58,937
	55-64	520	0.8%		\$56,221
	65+	102	0.2%		\$38,644
	Nonresident*	60,629	96.6%		\$15,324
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62,784</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>\$16,579</b>
Total	0-19	19,181	5.4%		\$5,311
	20-24	31,946	9.0%		\$16,763
	25-34	66,463	18.8%		\$32,965
	35-44	54,914	15.5%		\$42,254
	45-54	60,426	17.0%		\$46,054
	55-64	47,515	13.4%		\$46,341
	65+	13,349	3.8%		\$26,720
	Nonresident*	60,646	17.1%		\$15,328
	<b>Total</b>	<b>354,440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$32,219</b>

Source: Wyoming Wage Records. Available at [http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings\\_tables/2012/index.htm](http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/earnings_tables/2012/index.htm).

\*Nonresidents are workers who do not have a Wyoming-issued driver's license and work less than four quarters in Wyoming (Jones, 2002). Demographic data are not available for these workers. More information is available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/1102/a1.htm>.

view earnings by industry and more age categories see the R&P website; <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/>.

According to Kaiser Family Foundation data, approximately 73,300 non-elderly adults in Wyoming lack health insurance, roughly 16% of the 19-64 age group (Kaiser, 2011).

Wyoming has a higher proportion of aging workers and has seen a decline in workers less than 44 years old. Table 8 (see page 12) shows a substantial increase in workers of unknown age that are not Wyoming residents, and a significant reduction in younger workers, especially those in the 35-44 age group (-9.06% from 1992 to 2010).

Data reaching back to 1992 provides needed context to explain the increase in workers age 55-64. In some states, this increase was due to older workers returning to the workforce due to poor economic conditions, but in Wyoming it was more likely a function of Wyoming's population aging faster than the nation, paired with an exodus of younger potential workers (Research & Planning, 2012). Figure 1 (see page 13) shows the changing composition of the workforce by age group from 1992 to 2010.

### ***Nonresident Workers***

Since 2006, the state has seen dramatic increases in the numbers of nonresident employees in-migrating.

**Table 7: Average Annual Wages of 20- to 24-Year-Olds in Wyoming by Industry and Gender, 2011**

	Women			Men		
	n	Average Annual Wages	% of FPL <sup>a</sup>	n	Average Annual Wages	% of FPL <sup>a</sup>
Natural Resources & Mining	301	\$21,938	201.5%	2,729	\$38,146	350.3%
Construction	235	\$15,439	141.8%	2,494	\$21,031	193.1%
Manufacturing	243	\$15,020	137.9%	760	\$25,153	231.0%
Wholesale Trade, Transportation & Utilities	373	\$16,668	153.1%	1,131	\$30,713	282.0%
Retail Trade	2,963	\$10,696	98.2%	2,661	\$14,556	133.7%
Information	173	\$13,975	128.3%	183	\$15,104	138.7%
Financial Activities	638	\$15,814	145.2%	350	\$20,483	188.1%
Professional & Business Services	870	\$11,698	107.4%	1,265	\$16,386	150.5%
Educational Services	1,035	\$12,735	116.9%	549	\$9,624	88.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,902	\$15,418	141.6%	535	\$15,599	143.2%
Leisure & Hospitality	4,058	\$8,832	81.1%	2,840	\$9,495	87.2%
Other Services	468	\$11,796	108.3%	601	\$21,628	198.6%
Public Admin. (State & Local Govt.)	604	\$15,891	145.9%	776	\$19,346	177.6%

<sup>a</sup>FPL = Federal Poverty Level. In 2011, the Federal Poverty Level was \$10,890 annually; Workers earning less than 138% of the FPL (\$15,028) were considered low-income.

Shaded cells indicate average annual wages lower than the 138% of FPL standard for low income.

Nonresident workers are defined as those workers who do not have a Wyoming-issued driver's license and who work less than four quarters in the state. Jones (2002) found that nonresidents work in the state, on average, only two quarters, and likely have quarterly earnings that are significantly lower than more permanent residents.

In 1992 nonresident workers composed 9.4% of the workforce. Less than two decades later that percentage has nearly doubled (18.4%); close to one-fifth of the workforce consists of nonresidents. Historical data have been collected on Wyoming's workforce by age, gender, industry, and residence status. Observing nonresident trends over the past two decades exposes significant changes

in Wyoming's workforce composition, particularly as they relate to the increasing number of nonresident workers and age distribution, where workers age 44 and younger are decreasing as a percentage of the workforce and those 45 and older are increasing. Both male and female resident workers have declined as a percentage of Wyoming's workforce despite population growth (see Figure 2, page 14), but it appears women have been most impacted by the in-migration of nonresident workers. Table 9 (see page 15) summarizes the distribution of nonresident workers by county. Counties that rely heavily on nonresident workers are Campbell, Crook, Park, Sublette, Teton, Uinta, and Weston where industries such as natural resources & mining and leisure & hospitality are predominant.

**Table 8: Workers in Wyoming by Age Group, 1992 to 2010**

Year	Age Category							Nonresident*
	0-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1992	10.1%	11.0%	23.1%	24.3%	13.5%	6.6%	2.1%	9.4%
1993	10.6%	11.5%	22.9%	24.9%	14.2%	6.6%	2.0%	7.4%
1994	10.7%	11.5%	22.0%	25.0%	14.9%	6.8%	2.2%	7.1%
1995	10.6%	11.4%	21.7%	25.0%	15.5%	6.8%	2.0%	7.1%
1996	10.5%	11.2%	21.0%	24.6%	16.2%	6.9%	2.2%	7.6%
1997	10.5%	11.4%	20.3%	24.3%	16.9%	7.1%	2.1%	7.5%
1998	10.4%	11.2%	19.3%	23.4%	17.3%	7.4%	2.2%	8.9%
1999	10.3%	11.0%	18.5%	22.2%	17.6%	7.6%	2.2%	10.6%
2000	10.4%	11.2%	18.2%	21.6%	18.3%	7.8%	2.3%	10.2%
2001	9.7%	10.8%	17.3%	19.9%	18.3%	8.0%	2.4%	13.6%
2002	9.4%	10.8%	17.5%	19.2%	18.9%	8.8%	2.5%	12.9%
2003	8.9%	10.8%	17.4%	18.1%	19.0%	9.3%	2.6%	14.0%
2004	8.7%	10.8%	17.7%	17.6%	19.3%	9.9%	2.8%	13.1%
2005	8.5%	10.7%	17.6%	16.9%	19.3%	10.4%	2.9%	13.8%
2006	8.2%	10.0%	17.2%	16.1%	18.6%	10.6%	3.0%	16.4%
2007	7.6%	9.7%	17.1%	15.4%	17.9%	10.9%	3.1%	18.4%
2008	6.9%	9.4%	17.4%	15.1%	17.6%	11.3%	3.2%	19.1%
2009	5.9%	9.3%	18.3%	15.5%	18.0%	12.4%	3.5%	17.2%
2010	5.3%	8.8%	18.2%	15.2%	17.5%	13.0%	3.6%	18.4%

\*Nonresidents are workers who do not have a Wyoming-issued driver's license and work less than four quarters in Wyoming (Jones, 2002). Demographic data are not available for these workers. More information is available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/1102/a1.htm>.



## Discussion

### *Employers with Fewer than 50 Workers*

Small businesses with fewer than 50 workers comprise the majority (96%) of employers in the state. Hence, most Wyoming businesses will not be directly impacted by employer-sponsored health insurance provisions. There are two choices available for this employer size: either voluntarily provide health insurance to receive tax credits or place the responsibility on the workforce to purchase individual insurance through

exchanges or, if qualified, enroll in the state's expanded Medicaid program.

A recent initiative sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation called Buying Value (<http://www.buyingvalue.org/>) "seeks to achieve better care and lower health costs for the people it represents by replacing the current volume-based purchasing model in health care with one based on quality and patient safety." Efforts like these could be key for sparsely populated states like Wyoming and help attract small employers by helping them purchase insurance for their employees, ensuring a well-populated state exchange that has the ability to thrive (Krueger, Alexander, 2011).

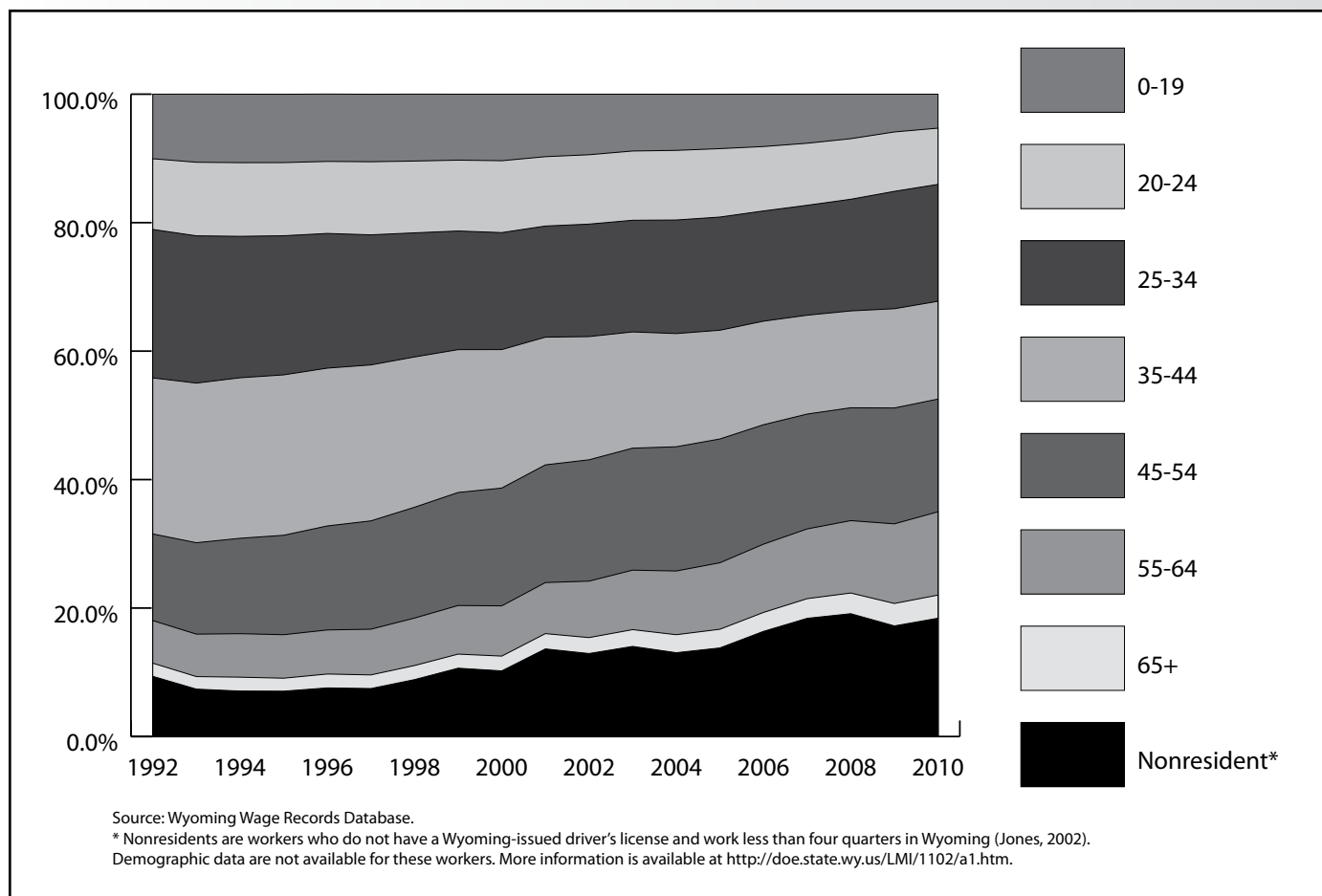


Figure 1: Composition of Wyoming Workforce by Age Group, 1992-2010

## Employers with 50 to 99 Workers

The PPACA will likely rearrange incentives to support certain activities and strategies for firms that employ between 50 to 99 workers. Even though the 2011 Benefits Survey estimates 96% of firms that employ between 50 to 59 workers already offer health insurance, 2011 survey estimates reveal only 57.6% of those in construction and 34.6% of those employed in leisure & hospitality are offered employer-sponsored health insurance. Of the 140 firms employing between 50 to 59 employees, it is plausible that under current economic conditions, paired with the high cost of providing insurance, a modest number of jobs could be lost. Specifically, one would expect a higher probability of jobs in the 36 firms found in the construction and leisure & hospitality sectors to maintain a workforce with fewer than 50 employees to avoid penalties or the additional cost of offering health insurance. Labor market responses have documented employer reactions to offering insurance, and often there has been a false presumption of lower wages, when in fact the

reaction by employers is to increase the number of working hours. Cutler and Madrian (1998) argued that health insurance costs are fixed, and as insurance becomes more expensive to provide, there is an employer incentive to increase hours thereby maintaining a smaller workforce. Other possible, but perhaps less likely scenarios include a shift in other benefits. For example, some employers may reduce life insurance or retirement offers to employees.

Businesses that employ between 50 and 99 workers, and in particular those with between 60

and 79 workers, may seek an advantage by dividing their company in half, applying for two separate UI accounts, and subsequently moving a portion of their employees to the new account. This could be construed as a form of what is called SUTA (State Unemployment Tax Act) dumping. The working definition of SUTA dumping involves a tax evasion scheme where shell companies are “formed and are creatively manipulated to obtain low UI tax rates” (California Employment Development Department, N.D.). When a new lower rate is obtained, payroll from the original entity

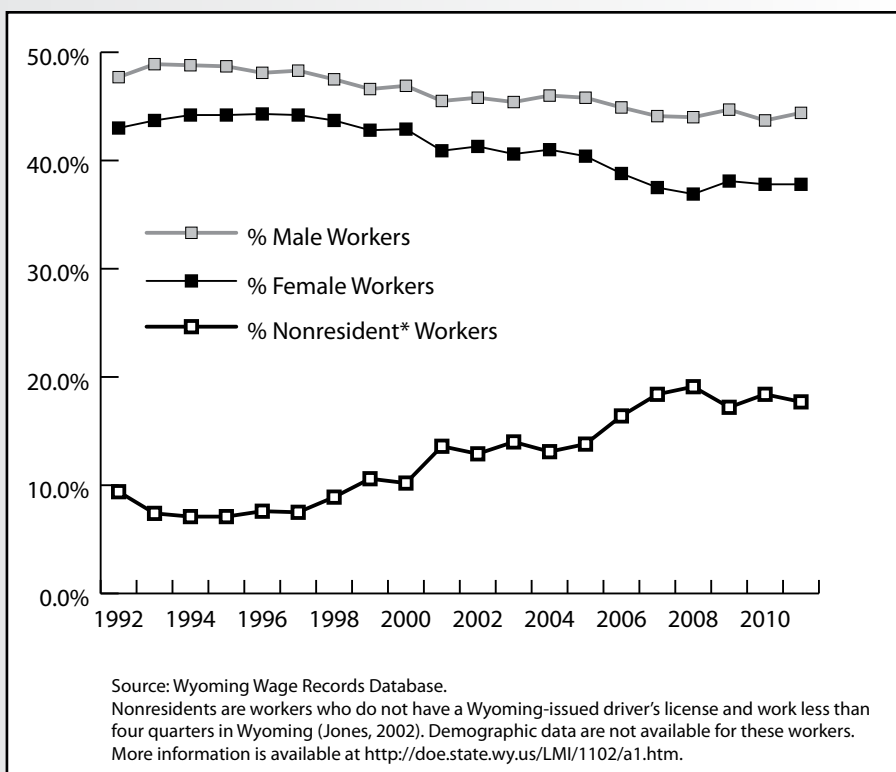


Figure 2: Composition of Wyoming Workforce by Gender, 1992-2010

with a high UI tax rate is shifted to the account with the lower rate. The entity with the higher rate is then “dumped.” Related to the PPACA provision to provide coverage by firms with more than 50 workers, the actual “dumping” of the original tax entity would not occur.

For example a firm with 70 employees could divide the entity into equal halves and employ 35 workers between two UI accounts, thus avoiding requirements of the law by manipulating the UI system

to gain advantage from penalties. The potential gain for this strategy for companies employing 80 to 99 workers is assumed to be less than with firms with 60 to 79 workers, as it would hinder the ability for future growth.

Another potential concern for employers with 51-99 workers is that effective January 1, 2016, the small market group will be defined as 100 workers or less. This change may induce firms of this size to

**Table 9: Number and Percentage of Nonresident Workers in Wyoming by County, 2006-2011**

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>56,837</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>67,147</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>70,328</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>56,440</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>64,347</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>62,784</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Albany	2,256	12.4	2,393	12.7	2,313	12.5	2,078	11.5	2,260	13.0	2,262	14.1
Big Horn	347	7.1	435	8.6	441	8.6	394	8.1	464	9.5	508	9.9
Campbell	8,543	21.8	10,170	24.1	11,903	26.0	9,789	22.9	10,126	24.9	4,038	12.1
Carbon	1,314	14.9	1,545	16.4	1,673	17.3	1,339	15.0	2,017	22.0	1,409	16.8
Converse	506	8.7	696	11.3	969	14.4	694	11.0	774	12.4	787	12.0
Crook	658	20.9	729	22.1	812	23.3	744	22.2	851	25.4	338	13.5
Fremont	1,753	8.7	2,124	10.1	2,269	10.6	2,101	10.1	2,411	11.7	2,534	12.5
Goshen	756	13.5	807	14.1	1,068	17.6	972	16.3	1,050	17.5	638	11.8
Hot Springs	157	6.6	165	6.8	183	7.2	189	7.7	232	9.6	235	9.6
Johnson	510	12.3	545	12.7	627	14.2	559	13.2	561	13.6	419	10.7
Laramie	7,230	13.5	8,329	15.0	8,057	14.5	7,112	13.4	7,736	14.9	8,112	16.7
Lincoln	919	12.0	2,601	26.1	1,901	20.9	1,135	14.5	1,000	13.9	1,331	16.5
Natrona	5,992	11.7	5,785	11.1	6,753	12.5	4,668	9.4	5,621	11.6	4,480	9.4
Niobrara	93	9.5	96	9.4	117	11.1	123	11.4	133	12.6	84	8.4
Park	3,579	19.4	3,813	20.1	3,872	20.3	3,712	19.9	4,139	22.5	2,240	14.4
Platte	593	13.4	578	13.3	564	13.3	550	12.8	629	14.3	535	12.5
Sheridan	1,199	7.9	1,534	9.6	1,555	9.6	1,334	8.7	1,474	10.0	1,438	10.1
Sublette	1,393	22.5	1,626	23.8	1,743	24.2	1,392	21.3	1,645	26.0	2,304	29.6
Sweetwater	4,882	15.4	6,022	17.8	6,307	18.2	3,967	13.1	5,029	16.7	4,038	13.5
Teton	7,481	30.9	8,471	33.5	8,812	34.4	7,076	30.9	7,342	33.5	6,895	30.5
Uinta	2,332	18.5	2,248	17.4	2,562	18.9	1,425	12.3	1,965	17.0	2,110	18.9
Washakie	354	7.5	443	9.1	543	10.7	435	9.0	506	10.3	339	7.6
Weston	1,767	35.0	2,353	40.6	2,072	37.7	2,070	38.3	2,140	41.3	248	9.2
Nonresident, Unknown County	2,223	3.9	3,639	5.4	3,212	4.6	2,582	4.6	4,242	6.6	15,462	24.6

shift towards self-insurance prior to the change, resulting in risk separation and adverse selection against the small group market. The state should be cognizant of efforts to employ the use of loopholes to circumvent consumer protections and monitor movement into the self-insurance market; or alternatively explore proactively defining small business as up to 100 employees to align with the Federal definition prior to 2016. This will broaden the risk pool and protect against adverse selection in the small group market.

### ***Employers with More than 100 Workers***

Similar to the small employer group, businesses with more than 100 workers will face two choices: continue or start to offer employer-sponsored health insurance coverage, or pay a penalty to help cover the cost of their employees' individual coverage paid in part or whole by federal subsidies.

In 2011, it was estimated that 90.6% of employers with more than 100 workers offered health insurance. This size of employer will likely remain stable and continue to offer health benefits. The current market allows businesses to enter and exit the employer sponsored health insurance market without penalty. Therefore, it is counter-intuitive to expect that a large number of employers of this size will choose to pay penalties that offer no tax incentive or direct benefit to their employees. Health benefits are still viewed as highly attractive to job seekers and often are a driving factor in employee retention. Rather, employers currently offering benefits may explore cost containment strategies and ways to encourage employees to become healthier through the implementation of health

promotion and wellness program efforts.

No consensus has been reached on how likely firms are to drop coverage, but based on literature related to the Massachusetts health reform initiative, a mass exodus from the health care market by employers seems unlikely. Speculative estimates have ranged from 1% to 10% of employers anticipating they will drop employer-sponsored health insurance. Because of a lack of consistent information, projections based on Wyoming employers will not be made.

### ***Workforce***

Because most employers in Wyoming will not be required under the PPACA to offer health insurance to employees, the burden to acquire coverage will be placed on the workforce. Data regarding low-income workers indicate men and women age 20-24 will most benefit from the PPACA by having the ability to obtain coverage through an expanded Medicaid program or through their parent's health insurance.

A review of 2011 wage earnings in Wyoming by age and industry reveals average annual wages for those age 25 to 64 to be well above 138% of the FPL of \$10,890 ( $\$10,890 \times 138\% = \$15,028$ ). The only group consistently near or below the 138% FPL threshold are women age 20-24. Kaiser State Health facts (2010) estimates 8% of Wyoming residents between the ages of 19 and 64 could become Medicaid eligible due to low income between 100% and 138% FPL. Tables 6 and 7 show that of 291,656 resident workers of all age groups (134,147 women, 157,509 men), there were 22,595 employees (14,562 women, 8,033 men) age 20-27 in various



industries who were near or below the 138% FPL threshold (see Table 7). That number accounts for 7.7% of the workforce who would be income eligible under an expanded Medicaid program. However, that figure may be inflated because many 20- to 24-year-olds qualify for dependent coverage on their parent's health insurance. Further, some who are included in the 22,595 number will earn wages above the mean income listed disqualifying them from eligibility. However, many workers in other industries earn below-average wages for their industry of employment, possibly making them Medicaid eligible. Hence, the monetary impact of expansion may not be as severe as predicted and could even yield positive results. A recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Sommers, Baicker, Epstein, 2012) conceded that the effects of Medicaid on adults' health remains unclear, however the authors were able to show a decrease in mortality in states that had expanded their Medicaid program compared to states that had not. More specifically, Medicaid expansions were associated with significant reductions in adjusted all-cause mortality (by 19.6 deaths per 100,000 adults, for a relative reduction of 6.1%). Expansions increased Medicaid coverage, decreased rates of uninsured, decreased rates of delayed care because of costs, and increased rates of self-reported health status of "excellent" or "very good."

Another key factor is age. Wyoming's population is aging faster than the rest of the nation. In almost two decades, the state has seen dramatic decreases in those age 44 and younger and growth in residents 45 and older. This has important implications for Wyoming because Section 1201 of the PPACA allows insurers, including those in the individual and

small group market, to vary rates based on family composition, geographic area, tobacco use, and age. This may directly cause higher premiums for older workers due to the age rating, and may also have an indirect impact because there will be fewer younger and healthier individuals to distribute the risk.

Lastly, the proportion of nonresident workers in the state has seen rapid growth and could present several challenges to health care delivery in the state. The primary reason for individual mandated coverage was to reduce costs across the entire population by broadening the risk pool by increasing the number of insured. However, those employed in industry sectors that have traditionally high rates of un-insured may be slow to obtain coverage. Nonresident, uninsured workers could drive up the cost of care received in Wyoming's hospitals and health care facilities.

### **Research, Propositions, and Hypothesis**

Provisions of the PPACA will have substantial effects on Wyoming employers, workers, health care facilities, the state health department, and other state agencies and governing bodies. This analysis creates insight into further inquiry for planning and implementation purposes. R&P offers a wealth of information to inform data-driven solutions for PPACA implementation tailored to Wyoming's needs and unique challenges as a rural/frontier state. Emerging research questions, suggestions, and hypotheses for planning purposes may examine Medicaid expansion and state health exchanges, addressing

workforce and employer needs, and surveillance efforts.

### ***Medicaid Expansion and State Health Insurance Exchange***

Further study should, in depth and scope, compare the percentage of workers who are unlikely to receive benefits from their employer by industry, firm size, gender, and wages. This information has tangible consequences for joint state/federal administered programs, and could be used to drive public-private partnerships to help cover more resident workers in the small group market. Other suggestions include:

- Examine the feasibility of creating a statewide basic health program to reduce churn between Medicaid and exchanges (Hwang, Rosenbaum, Sommers, 2012) due to Wyoming's notable percentage of positions that are low-income earning, in small firms, with high turnover and short tenure that are occupied by nonresidents, youth, and women. In 2005 R&P, in conjunction with the Wyoming Health Care Commission, published an extensive study (Gallagher, Harris, Hiatt, Leonard, Saulcy, & Shinkle) titled "Private Sector Employee Access to Health Insurance and the Potential Wyo-Care Market." Although somewhat dated, this work is relevant to many of the key policy questions surrounding the creation of a state health insurance exchange and state health program efforts but should be updated.
- Wyoming, like other rural states, may have issues adequately populating a state health exchange. Opportunities to collaborate with other states or gain policy flexibility could be examined.

Alternatively, the state could explore ways to provide value-based coverage through an exchange that would enhance administrative efficiencies, and also explore high-value based plans that are affordable (Kingsdale, 2012).

- Conduct comprehensive analyses and modeling exercises to better understand the effects of merging the individual and small group markets and proactively expanding the definition of small business to 1 to 100 employees.
- Rating enrollees based on health status is not allowable under the PPACA. However, consumers, especially in Wyoming, given its small population and poor health status in some counties like Fremont and Carbon (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/#app/>), may experience higher-than-expected premiums, as a result of insurer risk segmentation. State regulators must ensure that the allowable geographic rating is not used as a proxy for health status. This could be addressed by passing more protective rating restrictions than those found at the federal level.

### **Addressing Workforce and Employer Needs**

Conducting analysis and addressing the impact of nonresident workers on health care facilities and resources is an issue that should be investigated. Close to one-fifth of the state's workforce is supplied by nonresidents. Wyoming should engage in planning regarding the impact and the development of solutions to

address the prospect of non-compliant uninsured nonresident workers and the out-migration of covered individuals to surrounding states on Wyoming health care facilities. Data collection and analysis efforts should address:

- Industries that utilize nonresident workers that have traditionally high uninsured rates, with less than 50 employees (i.e. construction). R&P has annual information by industry showing which sectors employ the most nonresident workers.
- Industries (i.e. leisure & hospitality) and counties (Teton and Park) that employ temporary and or foreign workers in the U.S. on work visas.

## Surveillance

There are numerous loopholes and ways to manipulate the law to “game” the system for advantages. Identification of legal ambiguity, active monitoring, and appropriate policy solutions should be enacted to curb practices like SUTA dumping and shifts towards self-insurance. R&P can monitor changes in unemployment insurance accounts.

*Sarah Trimmer was a research intern at R&P for summer 2012. She is a master of public health candidate at Georgia State University.*

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Research & Planning  
Wyoming DWS



## Wyoming Benefits Survey 2012 Available Soon

<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits.htm>

Even as Wyoming added nearly 5,000 jobs from 2010 to 2011, the total number of jobs with access to key benefits remained relatively flat or continued to decline, according to the *Wyoming Benefits Survey 2012*.

From 2008 to 2010, the total number of jobs in Wyoming declined from an estimated 273,720 to 258,356. As this happened, the number of jobs offered access to health insurance remained flat, while the number of jobs offered access to a retirement plan continued to decline (see Figure).

In 2008, before Wyoming entered into an economic downturn, 174,522 jobs were offered access to health insurance, which was 63.8% of total employment. In 2011, 160,064 jobs were offered access to health insurance, which was 60.8% of total employment.

In 2011, the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services mailed benefits survey questionnaires to 2,729 randomly selected Wyoming employers found in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Data

for the QCEW come from Unemployment Insurance-covered employment records. Approximately 98% of employment is covered by Unemployment Insurance in the U.S., making it a near-census of employment in the states (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, n.d.). Among the types of firms excluded are railroads and some agricultural operations.

In contrast, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces estimates of nonfarm payroll employment, including some employee groups that are excluded from QCEW. These groups include employees of railroads, churches, small nonprofit organizations, elected officials, and work-study students at colleges and universities.

The *Wyoming Benefits Survey 2012* contains information on which jobs have access to these benefits and what types of employers offer health insurance, retirement, and many other benefits based on industry, employer size-class, and full- or part-time work status. This publication will be available online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/benefits.htm>.

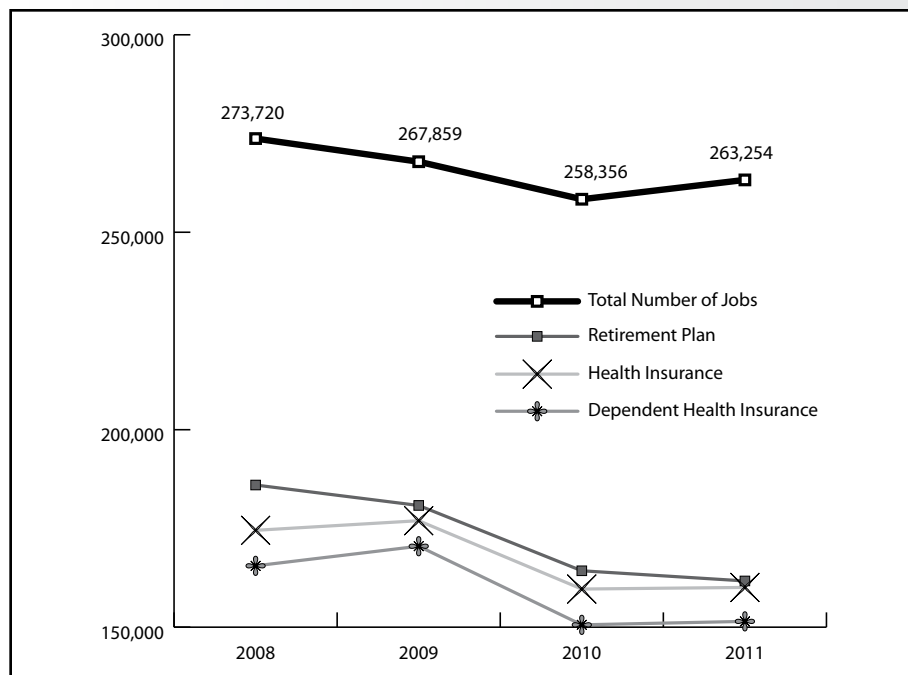


Figure: Total Number of Jobs in Wyoming and Number of Jobs Offered Selected Benefits, 2008 to 2011

## Wyoming Occupational Fatalities Decrease in 2011

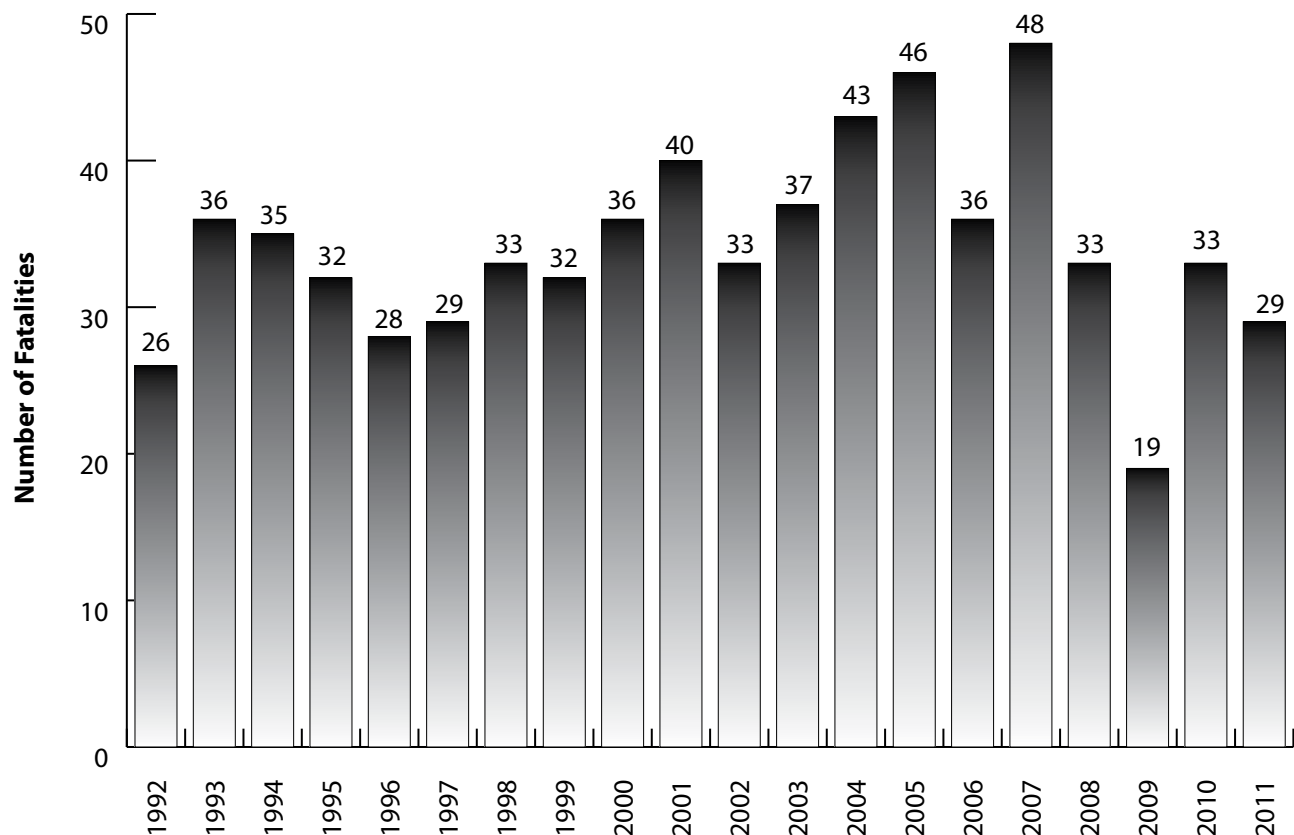
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has reported that the number of occupational fatalities fell from 33 in 2010 to 29 in 2011, a decrease of four deaths (-12.1%). There were 34 occupational fatalities each year on average from 1992 to 2011, and 2011 marks the fourth consecutive year that workplace deaths have been lower than average (see Figure 1).

Variations in fatalities from year to year are to some extent the result of the random nature of work-related accidents.

Additionally, there is not always a direct relationship between workplace fatalities and workplace safety. For example, suicides and homicides that occur in the workplace are included as occupational fatalities. In other cases, a sudden illness may be nearly coincidental with an accident that results in a workplace fatality. Occupational fatalities are counted in the state where the injury occurred, not necessarily the state of residence or the state of death.

In 2011, the largest number of deaths occurred in trade, transportation, & utilities



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

Figure 1: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities, 1992-2011

**Table 1: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities by Selected Industry and Event, 2011**

Industry	Total		Transportation Accidents <sup>a</sup>	
	N	Column %	N	Row %
Natural Resources & Mining	9	31.0	4	44.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	11	37.9	10	90.9
Transp. & Warehousing	9	31.0	9	100.0
All Other Industries	9	31.0	3	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>58.6</b>

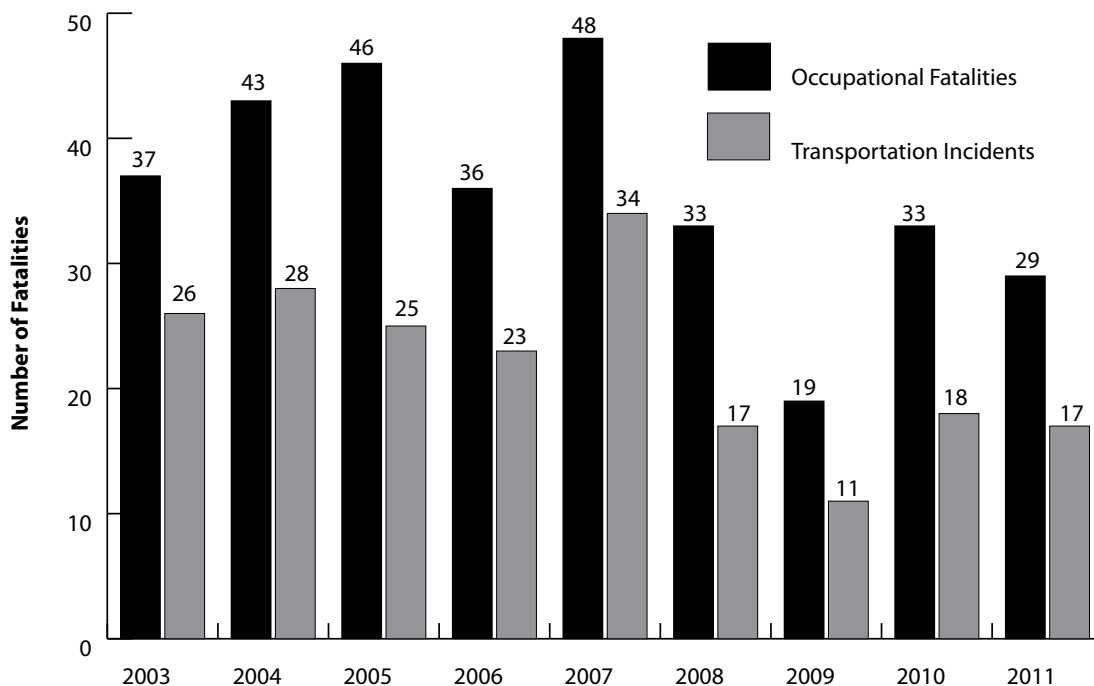
<sup>a</sup>Transportation incidents involve transportation vehicles, powered industrial vehicles or powered mobile industrial equipment in which at least one vehicle (or mobile equipment) is in normal operation and the injury/illness was due to collision or other type of traffic accident regardless of the location where the event occurred. Examples of vehicles included are automobiles, airplanes, trucks, forklifts, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and animals used for transportation purposes.

Note: Data for 2011 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

(11, or 37.9% of all deaths; see Table 1). There were nine deaths (31.0%) in natural resources & mining and nine deaths (31.0%) in all other industries. Nearly six out of 10 (58.6%) workplace fatalities were the result of transportation incidents.

Each year from 2003 to 2011, transportation incidents made up more than half of all workplace deaths (see Figure 2). Transportation incidents include highway crashes as well as incidents involving aircraft and other vehicles.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

**Figure 2: Wyoming Occupational Fatalities and Transportation Incidents, 2003 to 2011**

## 2008 CFOI Fatality Rates: Accuracy vs. Timeliness

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services released fatality counts for 2011 from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) in September 2012. However, many members of the public are more interested in fatality rates in order to rank states, and not in the actual fatality counts.

Fatality rates for 2011 will not be available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for some time. In the past, as much as two years has elapsed between the count release and the state rankings on workplace death. For example, on Sept. 10, 2010, the BLS released the 2008 fatality rates by state, almost two years after the end of the reference period (see Table 1,

Table 1: 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Fatal Work Injury Rates by State

State	Annual CES Employment (in Thousands)	CPS Hours Worked	Fatalities	Research & Planning Calculations		U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Calculations		Rate Diff.	Rank Diff.
				Fatality Rate	Rank	Fatality Rate	Rank		
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>298.2</b>	<b>601.6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0</b>
Alaska	322.1	649.9	33	10.2	2	10.6	2	-0.4	0
North Dakota	367.3	741.1	28	7.6	4	8.3	3	-0.7	1
Montana	445.8	899.4	40	8.9	3	8.2	4	0.7	-1
Louisiana	1,937.5	3,909.1	135	6.9	7	7.3	5	-0.4	2
West Virginia	762.0	1,537.4	53	6.9	7	7.2	6	-0.3	1
South Dakota	411.4	830.0	30	7.2	5	6.9	7	0.3	-2
Arkansas	1,202.5	2,426.2	85	7.0	6	6.8	8	0.2	-2
Oklahoma	1,592.7	3,213.4	102	6.3	10	6.4	9	-0.1	1
Mississippi	1,147.5	2,315.2	80	6.9	7	6.3	10	0.6	-3
Iowa	1,524.4	3,075.6	93	6.0	11	5.9	11	0.1	0
Kentucky	1,851.7	3,736.0	106	5.7	12	5.9	11	-0.2	1
Nebraska	965.0	1,947.0	53	5.4	14	5.7	13	-0.3	1
Missouri	2,789.1	5,627.3	148	5.3	15	5.4	14	-0.1	1
Alabama	1,992.1	4,019.3	107	5.3	15	5.3	15	0.0	0
Kansas	1,390.6	2,805.7	73	5.2	17	5.3	15	-0.1	2
Idaho	648.8	1,309.0	36	5.5	13	5.1	17	0.4	-4
Tennessee	2,774.8	5,598.4	135	4.8	19	5.1	17	-0.3	2
Utah	1,252.5	2,527.0	64	5.1	18	5.1	17	0.0	1
Indiana	2,956.7	5,965.4	143	4.8	19	5.0	20	-0.2	-1
South Carolina	1,926.3	3,886.5	87	4.5	21	4.5	21	0.0	0
Texas	10,607.0	21,400.7	463	4.3	24	4.4	22	-0.1	2
Colorado	2,350.3	4,742.0	105	4.4	22	4.2	23	0.2	-1
Georgia	4,102.2	8,276.6	182	4.4	22	4.2	23	0.2	-1
Pennsylvania	5,799.4	11,700.9	241	4.1	25	4.1	25	0.0	0
Virginia	3,762.9	7,592.0	156	4.1	25	4.1	25	0.0	0
Maine	617.2	1,245.3	24	3.9	27	3.9	27	0.0	0

Table continued on page 25



pages 24 and 25). The release of these data was delayed while the BLS obtained data on employment and hours worked from the U.S. Census Bureau. These numbers are needed to develop the denominator to calculate the fatality rate.

During this time, R&P received several inquiries on Wyoming's fatality rate and how it compared to fatality rates from other states. In order to better accommodate customers and meet their requests, R&P calculated fatality rates

using data available from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and the Current Population Statistics (CPS) programs. The CES produces employment numbers for each state and the CPS publishes average hours worked for the nation.

The purpose of this project was to see how closely R&P's fatality state rankings resembled those published by the BLS, and if the ranks by state were equivalent, even if the rates were slightly off.

(Table continued from page 24)

**Table 1: 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Fatal Work Injury Rates by State**

State	Annual CES Employment (in Thousands)	CPS Hours Worked	Fatalities	Research & Planning Calculations		U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Calculations		Rate Diff.	Rank Diff.
				Fatality Rate	Rank	Fatality Rate	Rank		
North Carolina	4,135.1	8,343.0	161	3.9	27	3.9	27	0.0	0
Florida	7,735.7	15,607.5	291	3.7	30	3.5	29	0.2	1
New Mexico	846.8	1,708.5	31	3.6	31	3.5	29	0.1	2
Arizona	2,616.3	5,278.6	100	3.8	29	3.4	31	0.4	-2
Illinois	5,949.7	12,004.1	193	3.2	32	3.3	32	-0.1	0
Nevada	1,263.6	2,549.4	41	3.2	32	3.3	32	-0.1	0
Ohio	5,362.4	10,819.2	168	3.1	36	3.2	34	-0.1	2
Vermont	307.2	619.8	10	3.2	32	3.2	34	0.0	-2
District of Columbia	703.9	1,420.2	9	1.3	49	3.1	36	-1.8	13
Oregon	1,718.4	3,467.0	55	3.2	32	3.1	36	0.1	-4
California	14,981.4	30,226.5	465	3.1	36	2.8	38	0.3	-2
Michigan	4,161.7	8,396.6	123	2.9	39	2.8	38	0.1	1
Wisconsin	2,878.1	5,806.9	77	2.7	41	2.7	40	0.0	1
Washington	2,958.9	5,969.9	84	2.8	40	2.6	41	0.2	-1
Minnesota	2,763.0	5,574.6	65	2.3	44	2.5	42	-0.2	2
Hawaii	619.2	1,249.3	19	3.0	38	2.4	43	0.6	-5
New York	8,792.8	17,740.4	213	2.4	43	2.4	43	0.0	0
Delaware	436.1	879.9	11	2.5	42	2.3	45	0.2	-3
New Jersey	4,048.4	8,168.1	92	2.3	44	2.3	45	0.0	-1
Maryland	2,600.0	5,245.8	60	2.3	44	2.2	47	0.1	-3
Massachusetts	3,290.0	6,637.9	68	2.0	47	2.2	47	-0.2	0
Connecticut	1,699.0	3,427.9	28	1.6	48	1.6	49	0.0	-1
Rhode Island	481.9	972.3	6	1.2	50	1.2	50	0.0	0
New Hampshire	646.1	1,303.6	7	1.1	51	1.1	51	0.0	0

## Methodology

For the reference years 1992 through 2007, the BLS published CFOI fatal injury rates on an employment basis (U.S. BLS, 2010). The risk of fatal injury was measured regardless of hours worked. In 2008, the BLS changed the denominator to average hours worked for all employees rather than employment alone. This is a more accurate measurement because it takes into consideration exposure to potential life-threatening hazards. In addition to reference year 2008, the BLS also recalculated fatality rates for 2007 to the hours-based rate. Since the denominator is substantially different from the prior method, hours-based state fatality rates should not be compared to the employment-based rates from prior years (U.S. BLS, 2010).

For both the employment-based model and the hours-based model, the BLS obtained data from the CPS. The scope of the CPS differs from CFOI in both models. For example, the CPS does not count workers under the age of 16, military workers and volunteers, whereas these are included in CFOI counts. Because of this, the BLS adjusted CFOI fatal injury counts used in calculating rates to maintain consistency between the numerator (number of fatal injuries) and the denominator (annual average employment and/or average hours worked). Workers under the age of 16 were previously excluded from the employment-based model. They are also excluded from the hours-based model, along with military and volunteers, since reliable hours-worked data cannot be obtained.

Rates for all 50 states were calculated

using CES and CPS data because CPS data is not available by state; these calculations were not adjusted for workers under the age of 16. Military and volunteers are not included in the CES numbers. Nationwide CPS data were used for average hours worked. R&P then multiplied the average hours worked per week by 52 weeks to annualize the data and multiplied that by the annual average CES employment for each state. To calculate the fatality rate, R&P divided the hours worked for each state by the number of fatalities in each state and multiplied that number by 200,000,000 (base for 100,000 equivalent full-time workers working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year). Fatality rates are calculated per 100,000 full-time workers. This is the same method used by the BLS to calculate hours-based rates (Northwood, 2010).

## Results

R&P's method for calculating the 2008 fatality rates resulted in some differences from the fatality rates calculated by the BLS (see Table 1). The differences in the fatality rates ranged from 0.0 to 1.8. There was no difference in 14 states, 12 states had a difference of .1, and 10 states had a difference of .2 in their fatality rates. Two states had differences of more than 1.0.

Ranking the states by fatalities resulted in similar results (see Table 1). Fifteen states had no difference in their ranking, 17 states were off by one, and 12 were off by two places in the ranking. Seven states were off by more than two, with one state being an extreme outlier that was off by 13 places.

Comparing fatality rates between states is not recommended due to the different

Table 2: 2011 Fatality Rates by State

Rank	State	Annual CES <sup>1</sup> Employment (Thousands)	CPS <sup>2</sup> Hours Worked	Fatalities	Fatality Rate
1	District of Columbia	727.8	1,449	9	1.2
2	New Hampshire	626.4	1,248	9	1.4
3	Rhode Island	460.2	917	7	1.5
4	Massachusetts	3,210.6	6,394	63	2.0
5	Washington	2,820.5	5,617	58	2.1
6	Connecticut	1,623.5	3,233	36	2.2
7	Minnesota	2,675.7	5,329	60	2.3
8	New York	8,683.4	17,294	205	2.4
9	Delaware	417.3	831	10	2.4
10	New Jersey	3,856.2	7,680	98	2.6
11	California	14,060.5	28,003	360	2.6
12	Vermont	299.6	597	8	2.7
13	Arizona	2,405.5	4,791	65	2.7
14	Georgia	3,880.0	7,727	107	2.8
15	Maryland	2,548.0	5,075	71	2.8
16	Ohio	5,083.1	10,124	153	3.0
17	Florida	7,271.5	14,482	227	3.1
18	Illinois	5,663.1	11,279	177	3.1
19	Utah	1,208.1	2,406	39	3.2
20	Wisconsin	2,740.7	5,458	89	3.3
21	Pennsylvania	5,687.1	11,326	186	3.3
22	Nevada	1,125.1	2,241	38	3.4
23	Virginia	3,680.4	7,330	127	3.5
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>131,325.6</b>	<b>261,548</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>3.5</b>
24	Oregon	1,618.1	3,223	57	3.5
25	Michigan	3,935.7	7,838	139	3.6
26	North Carolina	3,922.4	7,812	148	3.8
27	Colorado	2,255.3	4,492	87	3.9
28	Alabama	1,866.5	3,717	74	4.0
29	Texas	10,557.3	21,026	433	4.1
30	Nebraska	944.0	1,880	39	4.2
31	Indiana	2,830.3	5,637	122	4.3
32	Maine	593.4	1,182	26	4.4
33	Hawaii	592.1	1,179	26	4.4
34	South Carolina	1,832.1	3,649	81	4.4
35	Tennessee	2,656.3	5,290	120	4.5
36	Kentucky	1,790.4	3,566	86	4.8
37	Oklahoma	1,550.3	3,088	77	5.0
38	Missouri	2,650.3	5,278	133	5.0
39	West Virginia	753.9	1,501	43	5.7
40	Louisiana	1,905.7	3,795	109	5.7
41	Kansas	1,335.9	2,661	77	5.8
42	Mississippi	1,090.0	2,171	63	5.8
43	Idaho	606.8	1,209	37	6.1
44	Iowa	1,477.8	2,943	93	6.3
45	New Mexico	804.1	1,601	51	6.4
46	South Dakota	406.2	809	31	7.7
47	Arkansas	1,160.0	2,310	93	8.1
48	<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>285.7</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10.2</b>
49	North Dakota	394.2	785	44	11.2
50	Montana	427.7	852	49	11.5
51	Alaska	328.8	655	38	11.6

<sup>1</sup> Current Employment Statistics.<sup>2</sup> Current Population Survey.

mix of industries in each state. Some states have a higher percentage of employment in industries that traditionally have higher fatality rates, such as mining and agriculture. Other states have a larger share of their employment in less hazardous industries, such as trade or finance. Some states also have a high volume of interstate traffic, and worker fatalities are counted in the state where they were injured, not where their hours were worked or employment was counted. This can lead to some distortion in rates, especially in smaller states that have a large volume of truck traffic.

Overall, the results of R&P's calculations are satisfactory and can be useful as an approximation until the official numbers are released by the BLS. R&P's calculations for fatality rates by state in 2011 are presented in Table 2.

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## Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2010 and 2011

From 2010 to 2011, the number of fatal occupational injuries decreased in 26 states, increased in 23 states, and remained the same in two states (see Table).

During this period, the number of fatalities decreased in Wyoming (-4, or -12.1%) and three surrounding states: Nebraska (-15, or -27.8%), South Dakota (-5, or -13.9%), and Utah (-2, or -4.9%). The number of fatalities increased in four surrounding states: Colorado (2, or 2.4%), Idaho (4, or 12.1%), Montana (13, or 36.1%), and North Dakota (14, or 46.7%).

The most significant decreases were seen in West Virginia (-52, or -54.7%) and Washington (-46, -44.2%).

The number of fatalities in Texas declined from 461 in 2010 to 433 in 2011, but that state still had the highest number of fatalities for both years.

Table: Fatal Occupational Injuries by State, 2010-2011

	Total Fatal Injuries <sup>1</sup>		Change	
	2011(p) <sup>3</sup>	2010(r) <sup>2</sup>	N	%
Alabama	74	92	-18	-19.6
Alaska	38	39	-1	-2.6
Arizona	65	77	-12	-15.6
Arkansas	93	88	5	5.7
California	360	326	34	10.4
Colorado	87	85	2	2.4
Connecticut	36	49	-13	-26.5
Delaware	10	8	2	25.0
District of Columbia	9	16	-7	-43.8
Florida	227	225	2	0.9
Georgia	107	108	-1	-0.9
Hawaii	26	19	7	36.8
Idaho	37	33	4	12.1
Illinois	177	206	-29	-14.1
Indiana	122	118	4	3.4
Iowa	93	77	16	20.8
Kansas	77	85	-8	-9.4
Kentucky	86	69	17	24.6
Louisiana	109	111	-2	-1.8
Maine	26	20	6	30.0
Maryland	71	71	0	0.0
Massachusetts	63	54	9	16.7
Michigan	139	146	-7	-4.8
Minnesota	60	70	-10	-14.3
Mississippi	63	68	-5	-7.4
Missouri	133	106	27	25.5
Montana	49	36	13	36.1
Nebraska	39	54	-15	-27.8
Nevada	38	38	0	0.0
New Hampshire	9	6	3	50.0
New Jersey	98	81	17	21.0
New Mexico	51	38	13	34.2
New York	205	182	23	12.6
North Carolina	148	139	9	6.5
North Dakota	44	30	14	46.7
Ohio	153	161	-8	-5.0
Oklahoma	77	94	-17	-18.1
Oregon	57	47	10	21.3
Pennsylvania	186	221	-35	-15.8
Rhode Island	7	9	-2	-22.2
South Carolina	81	69	12	17.4
South Dakota	31	36	-5	-13.9
Tennessee	120	138	-18	-13.0
Texas	433	461	-28	-6.1
Utah	39	41	-2	-4.9
Vermont	8	12	-4	-33.3
Virginia	127	107	20	18.7
Washington	58	104	-46	-44.2
West Virginia	43	95	-52	-54.7
Wisconsin	89	91	-2	-2.2
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-12.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> State totals include other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Totals for 2010 are revised and final. Preliminary 2010 data issued August 25, 2011, reported a total of 4,547 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2010. Since then, an additional 143 job-related fatal injuries were identified, bringing the total job-related fatal injury count for 2010 to 4,690. Includes one fatal injury that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a state of incident could not be determined.

<sup>3</sup> Includes two fatal injuries that occurred within the territorial boundaries of the United States, but a State of incident could not be determined.

(p) Data for 2011 are preliminary. (r) Revised and final 2011 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2013.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.



## Wyoming Jobless Rate Increases to 5.6% in July 2012

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has reported that the state's seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup> unemployment rate increased from 5.4% in June to 5.6% in July (not a statistically significant change). July was the second month in a row that Wyoming's jobless rate has increased. However, the state's unemployment rate was somewhat lower than its July 2011 level (6.0%) and significantly lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate (8.3%). Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents fell by 1,728 individuals (-0.6%) from June to July.

From June to July, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and decreased slightly. Employment tends to increase in July, with seasonal job gains in construction, professional & business services, leisure & hospitality, and other sectors. The largest decrease in unemployment occurred in Teton County, where the jobless rate fell from 5.1% in June to 4.1% in July. Jobless rates increased slightly in Big Horn (up from 6.5% to 6.7%), Fremont (up from 6.9% to 7.0%),

and Lincoln (up from 7.1% to 7.2%) counties.

The lowest jobless rates in July were found in Sublette (3.6%), Teton (4.1%), Hot Springs (4.3%), Converse (4.3%), and Campbell (4.3%) counties. Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.2%). It was followed by Fremont (7.0%), Big Horn (6.7%), and Sheridan (6.2%) counties.

From July 2011 to July 2012, unemployment rates fell in 14 counties, increased in 6 counties, and were unchanged in 3 counties. Teton County reported the largest decrease, falling from 4.8% to 4.1%. Sizeable decreases were also seen in Hot Springs (down from 5.0% to 4.3%), Natrona (down from 5.6% to 5.0%), and Johnson (down from 6.2% to 5.6%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment in Wyoming (measured by place of work) fell from 294,700 in July 2011 to 293,900 in July 2012, a decrease of 800 jobs (-0.3%; not a statistically significant change).



Research & Planning  
Wyoming DWS

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate



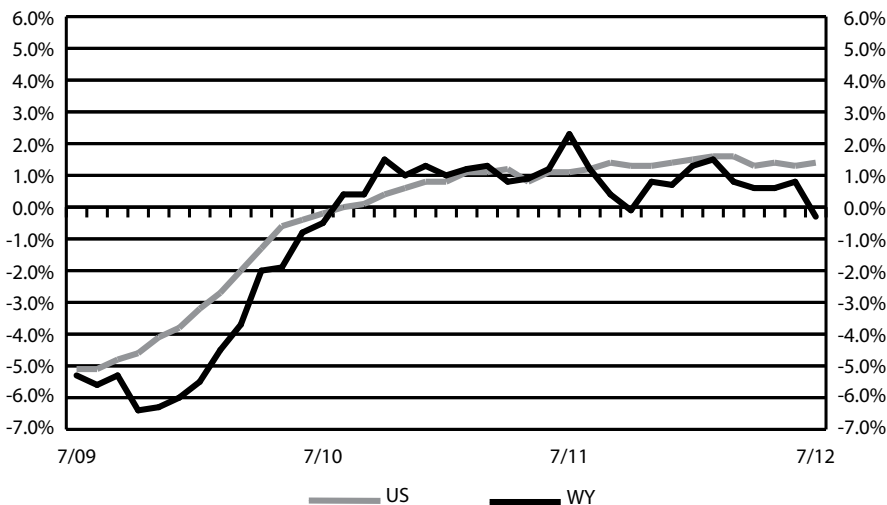
# Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, July 2012

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

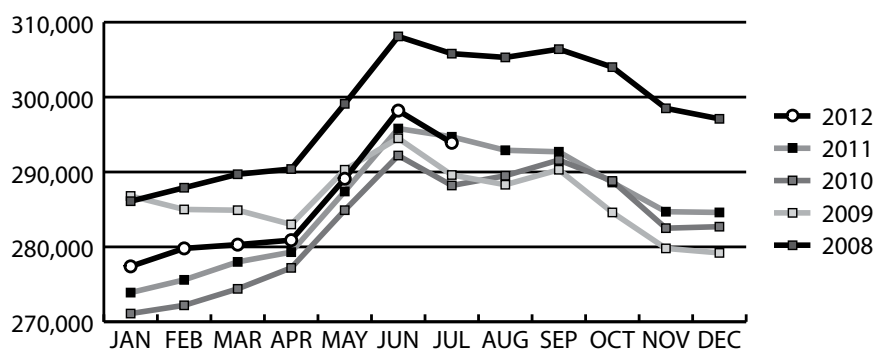
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>296,486</b>	<b>293,900</b>	<b>-2,586</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	28,691	27,800	-891	-3.2%
Construction	23,468	21,600	-1,868	-8.6%
Manufacturing	9,489	9,000	-489	-5.4%
Wholesale Trade	9,392	9,300	-92	-1.0%
Retail Trade	30,600	30,700	100	0.3%
Transportation & Utilities	14,962	14,000	-962	-6.9%
Information	3,947	4,000	53	1.3%
Financial Activities	10,791	10,700	-91	-0.9%
Professional & Business Services	19,080	19,200	120	0.6%
Educational & Health Services	26,815	27,600	785	2.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	39,676	40,900	1,224	3.0%
Other Services	12,166	11,800	-366	-3.1%
Government	67,409	67,300	-109	-0.2%

Projections run in June 2012 and based on QCEW Data through March 2012.

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



**Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**



## State Unemployment Rates July 2012 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.7
Nevada	12.0
Rhode Island	10.8
California	10.7
New Jersey	9.8
North Carolina	9.6
South Carolina	9.6
Georgia	9.3
Mississippi	9.1
New York	9.1
Michigan	9.0
District of Columbia	8.9
Illinois	8.9
Florida	8.8
Oregon	8.7
Connecticut	8.5
Washington	8.5
Tennessee	8.4
Alabama	8.3
Arizona	8.3
Colorado	8.3
Kentucky	8.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Indiana	8.2
Pennsylvania	7.9
Alaska	7.7
Louisiana	7.6
Maine	7.6
Idaho	7.5
West Virginia	7.4
Arkansas	7.3
Wisconsin	7.3
Missouri	7.2
Ohio	7.2
Texas	7.2
Maryland	7.0
Delaware	6.8
New Mexico	6.6
Hawaii	6.4
Montana	6.4
Kansas	6.3
Massachusetts	6.1
Utah	6.0
Virginia	5.9
Minnesota	5.8
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>5.6</b>
New Hampshire	5.4
Iowa	5.3
Vermont	5.0
Oklahoma	4.9
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.0
North Dakota	3.0

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jun 12 Jul 11	Jul 12
	12	12	11	12	12
<b>CAMPBELL COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	9.0	8.9	8.3	1.1	8.4
Construction	2.6	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>-7.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.7	5.7	5.4	0.0	5.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Other Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-27.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jun 12 Jul 11	Jul 12
	12	12	11	12	12
<b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6.2	6.1	6.0	1.6	3.3
Construction	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.2	5.2	5.0	0.0	4.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.3	1.2	1.3	8.3	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
Other Services	0.8	0.7	0.8	14.3	0.0
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jun 12 Jul 11	Jul 12
	12	12	11	12	12
<b>TETON COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	2.0	2.0	1.8	0.0	11.1
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.6	2.4	2.6	8.3	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.0	1.1	10.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	9.4	8.6	9.3	9.3	1.1
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## State Unemployment Rates July 2012 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	14.8
Nevada	12.5
Rhode Island	11.2
California	10.9
Michigan	10.3
Mississippi	10.1
New Jersey	10.1
North Carolina	9.8
Georgia	9.7
South Carolina	9.6
Connecticut	9.3
Florida	9.3
Illinois	9.3
New York	9.1
Alabama	9.0
District of Columbia	9.0
Oregon	8.9
Tennessee	8.8
Arizona	8.7
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Kentucky	8.5
Washington	8.4
Colorado	8.3
Indiana	8.3
Pennsylvania	8.3
Louisiana	7.9
Arkansas	7.8
Missouri	7.6
Texas	7.5
Maine	7.4
New Mexico	7.4
Ohio	7.4
Wisconsin	7.4
Alaska	7.3
West Virginia	7.2
Delaware	7.1
Maryland	7.1
Idaho	6.9
Kansas	6.7
Massachusetts	6.6
Hawaii	6.4
Utah	6.2
Virginia	6.0
Minnesota	5.9
Montana	5.9
New Hampshire	5.7
Vermont	5.3
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Iowa	5.2
Oklahoma	5.1
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.3
North Dakota	2.9

## Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

*The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 50 in July 2011 to 46 in July 2012, an 8.0% decrease.*

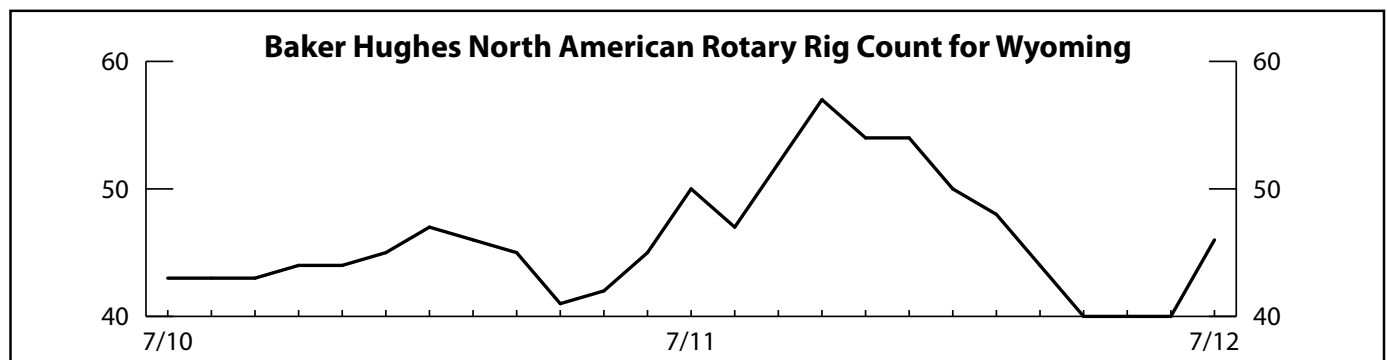
	Jul 2012 (p)	Jun 2012 (r)	Jul 2011 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
<b>Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>293,900</b>	<b>298,200</b>	<b>294,700</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Wyoming State Government	16,600	16,700	16,500	-0.6	0.6
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	45,900	46,400	44,900	-1.1	2.2
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	41,400	41,800	40,300	-1.0	2.7
<b>Selected U.S. Employment Data</b>					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,741,000	6,707,000	6,724,000	0.5	0.3
As a percent of all workers	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	852,000	821,000	1,119,000	3.8	-23.9
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	8,316,000	8,394,000	8,514,000	-0.9	-2.3
<b>Wyoming Unemployment Insurance</b>					
Weeks Compensated	17,689	15,519	17,288	14.0	2.3
Benefits Paid	\$6,111,804	\$5,319,736	\$5,633,695	14.9	8.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$345.51	\$342.79	\$325.87	0.8	6.0
State Insured Covered Jobs <sup>1</sup>	272,954	277,518	266,887	-1.6	2.3
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%	N/A	N/A
<b>Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers</b> (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	229.1	229.5	225.9	-0.2	1.4
Food & Beverages	233.6	233.5	228.3	0.0	2.3
Housing	223.3	223.1	220.2	0.1	1.4
Apparel	122.3	125.2	118.8	-2.3	3.0
Transportation	214.3	216.4	216.2	-1.0	-0.9
Medical Care	416.8	415.3	400.3	0.3	4.1
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	114.9	115.1	113.5	-0.1	1.3
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	133.5	133.5	130.9	0.1	2.1
Other Goods & Services	395.4	394.0	386.5	0.4	2.3
<b>Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)</b>					
All Commodities	200.0	200.4	204.6	-0.2	-2.2
<b>Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)</b>					
Total Units	133	159	288	-16.4	-53.8
Valuation	\$29,324,000	\$41,531,000	\$47,570,000	-29.4	-38.4
Single Family Homes	126	147	164	-14.3	-23.2
Valuation	\$28,689,000	\$40,278,000	\$38,162,000	-28.8	-24.8
Casper MSA <sup>2</sup> Building Permits	21	26	67	-19.2	-68.7
Valuation	\$4,516,000	\$4,979,000	\$5,963,000	-9.3	-24.3
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	27	34	14	-20.6	92.9
Valuation	\$3,242,000	\$6,953,000	\$2,398,000	-53.4	35.2
<b>Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>-8.0</b>

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

<sup>1</sup>Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

<sup>2</sup>Metropolitan 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

*Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (7.2%) in July 2012.*

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jul 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2011	Jul 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2011	Jul 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2011	Jul 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2011
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>49,144</b>	<b>49,267</b>	<b>49,300</b>	<b>46,178</b>	<b>46,272</b>	<b>46,471</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Big Horn	5,216	5,344	5,370	4,867	4,998	5,031	349	346	339	6.7	6.5	6.3
Fremont	19,758	19,840	19,434	18,371	18,475	18,114	1,387	1,365	1,320	7.0	6.9	6.8
Hot Springs	2,613	2,682	2,678	2,500	2,555	2,545	113	127	133	4.3	4.7	5.0
Park	17,215	17,053	17,302	16,334	16,138	16,514	881	915	788	5.1	5.4	4.6
Washakie	4,342	4,348	4,516	4,106	4,106	4,267	236	242	249	5.4	5.6	5.5
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>55,457</b>	<b>56,843</b>	<b>54,415</b>	<b>52,630</b>	<b>53,837</b>	<b>51,556</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>2,859</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Campbell	28,217	28,986	27,110	26,990	27,645	25,891	1,227	1,341	1,219	4.3	4.6	4.5
Crook	3,645	3,750	3,597	3,465	3,555	3,413	180	195	184	4.9	5.2	5.1
Johnson	4,113	4,207	4,131	3,881	3,955	3,873	232	252	258	5.6	6.0	6.2
Sheridan	16,280	16,654	16,399	15,263	15,619	15,377	1,017	1,035	1,022	6.2	6.2	6.2
Weston	3,202	3,246	3,178	3,031	3,063	3,002	171	183	176	5.3	5.6	5.5
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>68,749</b>	<b>68,390</b>	<b>68,495</b>	<b>65,441</b>	<b>64,843</b>	<b>65,022</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>3,547</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Lincoln	8,432	8,568	8,538	7,825	7,957	7,926	607	611	612	7.2	7.1	7.2
Sublette	7,843	7,735	8,018	7,559	7,436	7,765	284	299	253	3.6	3.9	3.2
Sweetwater	25,244	25,607	25,222	24,068	24,355	23,994	1,176	1,252	1,228	4.7	4.9	4.9
Teton	15,711	15,001	15,785	15,062	14,229	15,022	649	772	763	4.1	5.1	4.8
Uinta	11,519	11,479	10,932	10,927	10,866	10,315	592	613	617	5.1	5.3	5.6
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>76,842</b>	<b>77,599</b>	<b>76,586</b>	<b>72,409</b>	<b>72,940</b>	<b>72,109</b>	<b>4,433</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Albany	18,990	19,354	19,001	18,059	18,319	18,124	931	1,035	877	4.9	5.3	4.6
Goshen	6,383	6,536	6,407	6,002	6,138	6,027	381	398	380	6.0	6.1	5.9
Laramie	45,947	45,974	45,641	43,132	43,071	42,729	2,815	2,903	2,912	6.1	6.3	6.4
Niobrara	1,315	1,353	1,339	1,254	1,288	1,278	61	65	61	4.6	4.8	4.6
Platte	4,207	4,382	4,198	3,962	4,124	3,951	245	258	247	5.8	5.9	5.9
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>60,011</b>	<b>60,232</b>	<b>58,878</b>	<b>57,050</b>	<b>57,102</b>	<b>55,649</b>	<b>2,961</b>	<b>3,130</b>	<b>3,229</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Carbon	8,098	8,304	7,924	7,657	7,830	7,459	441	474	465	5.4	5.7	5.9
Converse	8,059	8,127	7,660	7,715	7,750	7,300	344	377	360	4.3	4.6	4.7
Natrona	43,854	43,801	43,294	41,678	41,522	40,890	2,176	2,279	2,404	5.0	5.2	5.6
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>310,205</b>	<b>312,329</b>	<b>307,675</b>	<b>293,709</b>	<b>294,994</b>	<b>290,807</b>	<b>16,496</b>	<b>17,335</b>	<b>16,868</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										5.6	5.4	6.0
U.S. ....										8.6	8.4	9.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted .....										8.3	8.2	9.1

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2012. Run Date 08/2012.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

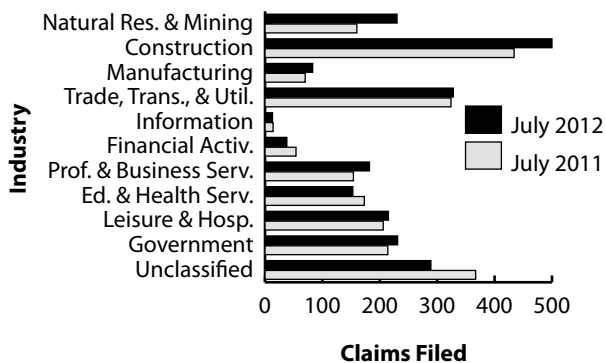
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

## Wyoming Normalized<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

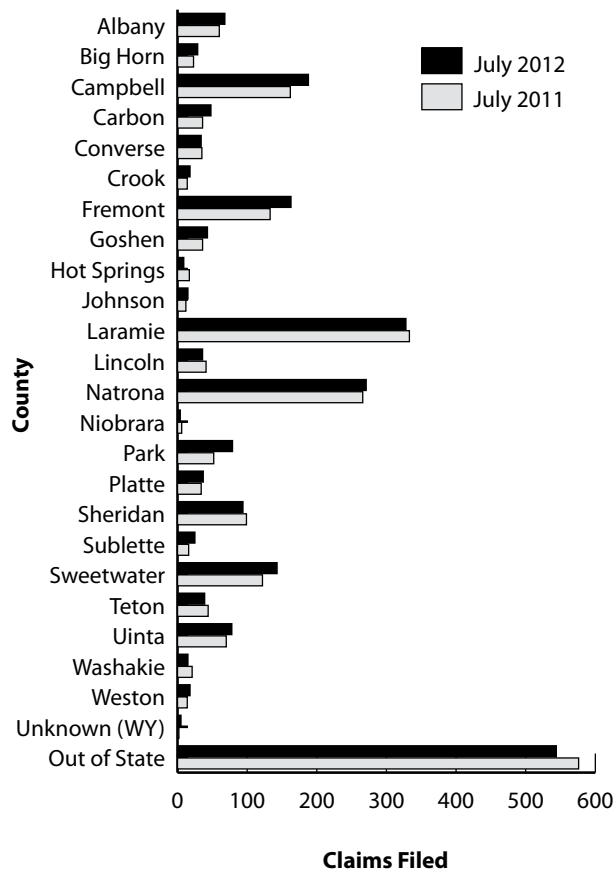
by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

Initial claims increased 5.0% compared to July 2011. Significant increases were seen in natural resources & mining (43.8%) and construction (15.2%).

### Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2012



### Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2012



### Initial Claims

Initial Claims	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed			Jul 12	Jul 12
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jun 12	Jul 11
<b>Wyoming Statewide</b>					
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>2,374</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	813	820	664	-0.9	22.4
Natural Res. & Mining	230	212	160	8.5	43.8
Mining	205	182	144	12.6	42.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	10	12	10	-16.7	0.0
Construction	500	540	434	-7.4	15.2
Manufacturing	83	68	70	22.1	18.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,000	989	977	1.1	2.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	328	323	324	1.5	1.2
Wholesale Trade	56	47	44	19.1	27.3
Retail Trade	194	191	188	1.6	3.2
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	78	85	92	-8.2	-15.2
Information	13	15	14	-13.3	-7.1
Financial Activities	38	39	54	-2.6	-29.6
Prof. and Business Svcs.	182	157	154	15.9	18.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	153	203	173	-24.6	-11.6
Leisure & Hospitality	215	192	206	12.0	4.4
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	71	60	52	18.3	36.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	231	223	214	3.6	7.9
Federal Government	32	35	38	-8.6	-15.8
State Government	35	22	32	59.1	9.4
Local Government	164	166	144	-1.2	13.9
Local Education	54	90	53	-40.0	1.9
UNCLASSIFIED	289	342	367	-15.5	-21.3

### Laramie County

<b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	77	93	70	-17.2	10.0
Construction	57	77	58	-26.0	-1.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	203	209	217	-2.9	-6.5
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	63	74	79	-14.9	-20.3
Financial Activities	8	10	15	-20.0	-46.7
Prof. & Business Svcs.	45	31	41	45.2	9.8
Educational & Health Svcs.	34	39	30	-12.8	13.3
Leisure & Hospitality	40	41	39	-2.4	2.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	37	27	35	37.0	5.7
UNCLASSIFIED	10	10	8	0.0	25.0

### Natrona County

<b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	80	85	90	-5.9	-11.1
Construction	36	55	43	-34.5	-16.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	161	172	150	-6.4	7.3
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	55	48	54	14.6	1.9
Financial Activities	2	2	3	0.0	-33.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	28	34	15	-17.6	86.7
Educational & Health Svcs.	25	33	37	-24.2	-32.4
Leisure & Hospitality	37	36	27	2.8	37.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	20	10	19	100.0	5.3
UNCLASSIFIED	9	10	5	-10.0	80.0

<sup>a</sup>An 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<sup>a</sup> Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

Total weeks claimed decreased by 9.3% from July 2011, but a significant increase in the number of weeks claimed was seen in natural resources & mining (50.5%).

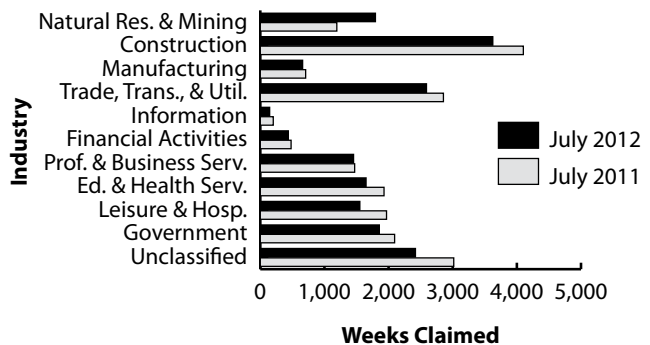
## Continued Claims

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 11
	Jul 12	Jun 12	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 11
<b>Wyoming Statewide</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	18,673	19,241	20,595	-3.0	-9.3
EXTENDED WEEKS CLAIMED	6,587	7,358	13,255	-10.5	-50.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS <sup>b</sup>	5,300	5,618	5,894	-5.7	-10.1
Benefit Exhaustions	463	462	684	0.2	-32.3
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	8.7%	8.2%	11.6%	0.5%	-2.9%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	6,080	6,381	6,001	-4.7	1.3
Natural Res. & Mining	1,795	1,753	1,193	2.4	50.5
Mining	1,639	1,620	1,080	1.2	51.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	155	106	87	46.2	78.2
Construction	3,625	3,816	4,101	-5.0	-11.6
Manufacturing	660	812	707	-18.7	-6.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	8,318	8,814	9,484	-5.6	-12.3
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	2,591	2,586	2,855	0.2	-9.2
Wholesale Trade	464	427	432	8.7	7.4
Retail Trade	1,467	1,465	1,851	0.1	-20.7
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	660	694	572	-4.9	15.4
Information	146	128	202	14.1	-27.7
Financial Activities	437	438	480	-0.2	-9.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	1,454	1,501	1,471	-3.1	-1.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,649	1,490	1,929	10.7	-14.5
Leisure and Hospitality	1,552	2,174	1,968	-28.6	-21.1
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	489	497	579	-1.6	-15.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,856	1,739	2,094	6.7	-11.4
Federal Government	296	371	368	-20.2	-19.6
State Government	242	213	255	13.6	-5.1
Local Government	1,318	1,155	1,471	14.1	-10.4
Local Education	421	327	506	28.7	-16.8
UNCLASSIFIED	2,419	2,307	3,016	4.9	-19.8
<b>Laramie County</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,539	2,583	2,790	-1.7	-9.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	729	729	803	0.0	-9.2
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	535	629	584	-14.9	-8.4
Construction	366	414	437	-11.6	-16.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,597	1,531	1,745	4.3	-8.5
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	478	387	487	23.5	-1.8
Financial Activities	110	122	119	-9.8	-7.6
Prof. & Business Svcs.	323	348	297	-7.2	8.8
Educational and Health Svcs.	354	349	450	1.4	-21.3
Leisure & Hospitality	245	232	240	5.6	2.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	304	306	384	-0.7	-20.8
UNCLASSIFIED	103	117	77	-12.0	33.8
<b>Natrona County</b>					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,953	1,893	2,218	3.2	-11.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	541	555	628	-2.5	-13.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	551	584	532	-5.7	3.6
Construction	266	330	254	-19.4	4.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,231	1,143	1,523	7.7	-19.2
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	346	343	531	0.9	-34.8
Financial Activities	39	58	78	-32.8	-50.0
Professional & Business Svcs.	188	186	236	1.1	-20.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	321	261	323	23.0	-0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	188	157	187	19.7	0.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	105	104	121	1.0	-13.2
UNCLASSIFIED	66	62	42	6.5	57.1

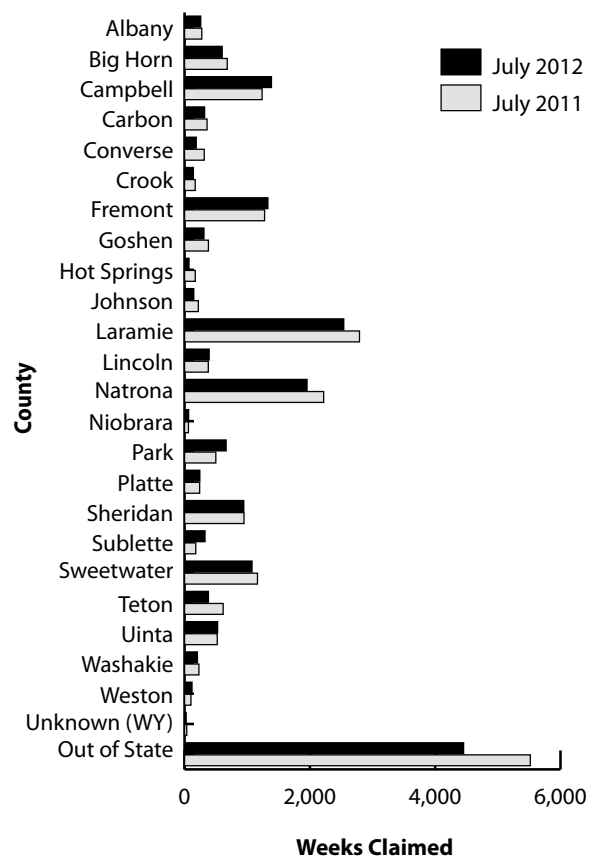
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<sup>b</sup>Does not include claimants receiving extended benefits.

## Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, July 2012



## Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, July 2012



**Wyoming Department  
of Workforce Services  
Research & Planning  
P.O. Box 2760  
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