

TRENDS

New Firms, New Directions: Business Formation in Wyoming by: Sherry Wen, Senior Economist

Compared to the prior two years, Wyoming's new business formation slowed somewhat in 2002 and 2003, corresponding with the contraction of the national economy. Construction had the most new firms and was also the largest provider of initial jobs and wages.

New business formation is an important economic indicator. It not only represents the number of new businesses, but also economic growth and future jobs, wages, and tax revenues. The various formation rates across industries may also indicate the direction of labor market diversification. Research & Planning (R&P) has tracked new business formation and published related research every two years since 1993 (Wen, 2003a).

Changes From Previous Studies

Years of collection now allow us to present the results at the county level. Also for the first time, industry results are

available using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which provides more detailed industry sectors.

Methodology

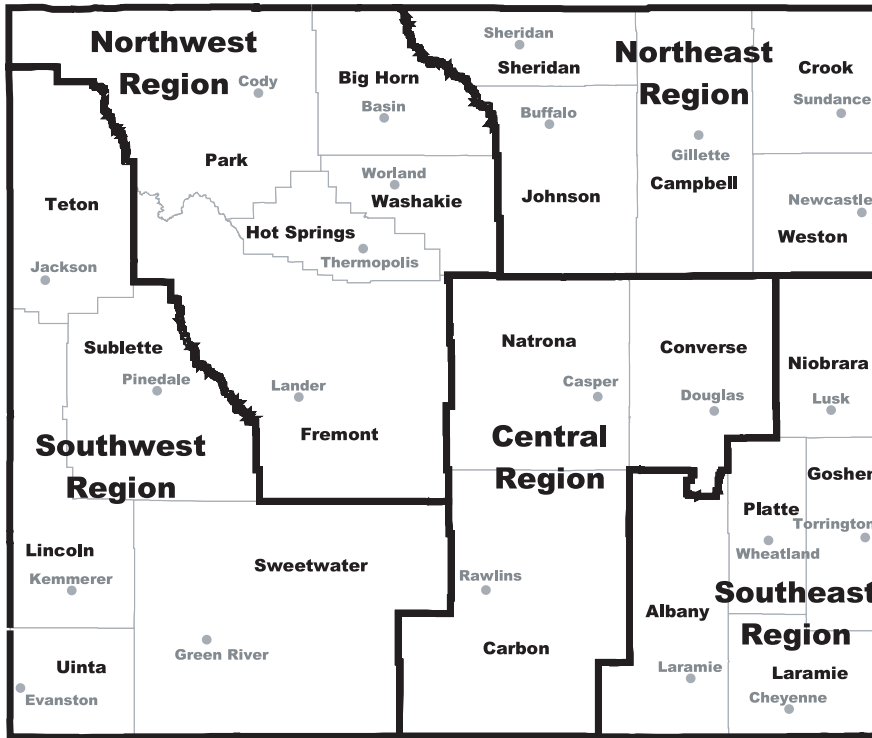
A new business in this study is defined as one that is totally new and actively providing goods or services. In other words, a new branch of an existing firm does not count as a new business and neither does a firm reopening after closing for a while. By law, if an employer plans to start a new business in Wyoming and hire workers, it must register with the

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Second quarter 2004 employment growth (3.0%) is well above the five-year average growth rate of 2.0 percent....page 13**
- **Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November (3.5%) remained well below the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent....page 20**
- **The over-the-year percentage decline in Unemployment Insurance initial claims (-18.9%) was the largest since 1999....page 26**

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

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IN THIS ISSUE:

New Firms, New Directions: Business Formation in Wyoming	1
Covered Employment and Wages for Second Quarter 2004: Employment Growth Remains Healthy	13
Comparability of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Data Over Time	19
Wyoming Creates 5,200 New Jobs; Unemployment Down in November	20
State Unemployment Rates	21
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	22
Economic Indicators	24
County Unemployment Rates	25
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	26

Department of Employment, Employment Tax Division (ETD) and indicate what kind of business activity it plans to conduct, the county or counties in which it will locate, and other related information. The ETD will then set up a new Unemployment Insurance (UI) account for the firm. The term *firm* in this study means a unique UI account.

R&P manages a monthly database based on registrations submitted by new employers. However, a business venture may not move forward as intended; many new firms are unable to open their business as originally planned. As a result, the new employer registry lacks information on the final number of new operating firms within a specific time period and the actual date that a new firm begins business.

To address these problems R&P matches the new UI registry to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), an administrative database that contains information from firms' quarterly reports of employment and wages. If a new firm hires workers and reports wages in the QCEW, it is considered an active new firm in the corresponding quarter and is selected for our study database. We continue adding new firms in each quarter and obtain the longitudinal quarterly employment and wage information for each record as additional QCEW data becomes available.

Economic Impact of New Business Formation

In our study, we use three different ways to measure the impact of new business formation on the state economy: (1) the business formation rate - the number of new firms compared with the

total number of firms in the state or a specific industry; (2) employment impact is the number of new jobs associated with the new businesses divided by the total annual average employment in the state or an industry; and (3) wage impact is the total wages associated with new business divided by the state's annual total wages. All of the denominators are from the QCEW. Collectively, these three indicators tell us, within an industry, the percentage of total firms that new businesses account for and the proportion of total employment and wages associated with new firms.

Business Survival

Due to the complexity of business transfers (selling, merging, or splitting) and the availability of corresponding information in the QCEW, this research only considers the survival of a business under the original owner. If the original business owner sold the firm to another owner, we no longer consider the firm active, even if the successor continues conducting the same business activities. If the QCEW shows a firm still pays wages in the same quarter one year later, this firm is considered a one-year survival, and so on. The survival rate is the number of survivals divided by the number of new firms that registered with the ETD. One-year survivals looked at firm which registered from 1993 to 2002; two-year survivals included those who registered from 1993 to 2001; and three-year survivals analyzed firms registered from 1993 to 2000. The same method applies to any number of years of survival rate.

Results

A total of 1,951 firms started business

in Wyoming in 2002 and 1,932 in 2003 (-5.8% and -6.8%, respectively, compared to the 2001 level of 2,072). Although the number of new firms in these two years was still higher than most years since 1993 (see Figure 1), the new business formation rate dropped to a historical low (9.9%) due to the continued growth of the annual average number of total firms over the years (see Figure 2, page 5). One of the main reasons Wyoming had fewer new firms in 2002 and 2003 compared with 2001 was the economic contraction. In June 2003 the national economy experienced a nine-year high unemployment rate of 6.4 percent and the fifth consecutive month of no job growth (Strope, 2003). Meanwhile Wyoming's UI claims and benefit payments reached a 10-year high (Wen, 2003b).

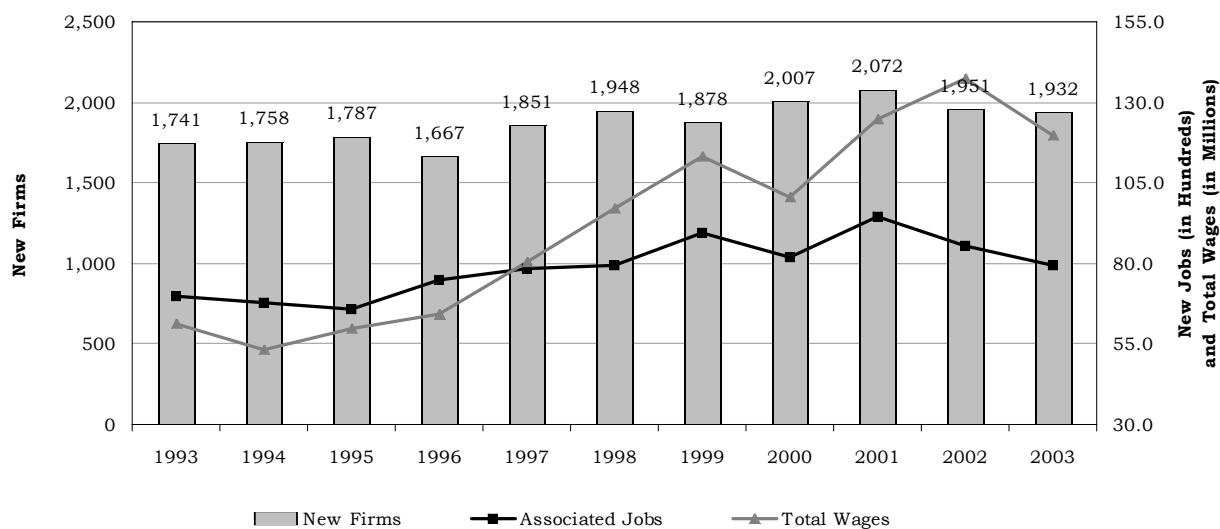
The new firms in 2002 generated 8,560 new jobs for the state (see Table 1, page

5), which accounted for 3.6 percent of state annual average jobs. These firms generated \$137.5 million in wages, which was equal to 2.0 percent of state annual total wages in the year they opened. New firms in 2003 brought 7,946 new jobs (3.3% of the state total annual average) and \$119.7 million in wages (1.7% of the state total).

The Southwest Region (see Map of Wyoming Regions, page 2) was the fastest developing region in terms of new business formation. It added a total of 496 new firms in 2002 and 494 in 2003, accounting for more than one-quarter of the state's total new firms in both years (see Table 1). Those new firms created 2,319 new jobs (27.1% of the state total) in 2002 with \$42.4 million (30.8%) in associated wages and 2,189 new jobs

(Text continued on page 6)

Figure 1: Annual Number of New Firms in Wyoming and Associated Jobs and Wages, 1993 to 2004



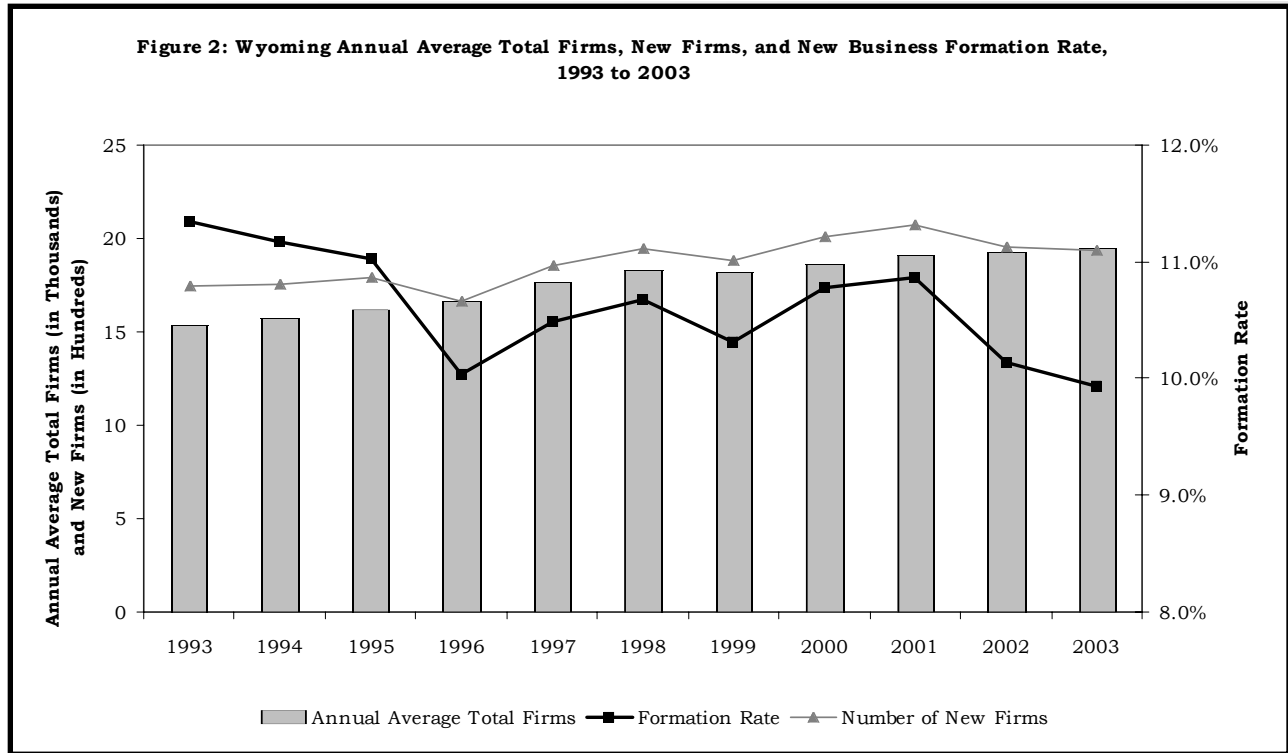


Table 1: New Firms, Associated New Jobs,^a and Wages by Wyoming Region and County, 2002 and 2003

REGION County	2002						2003					
	New Firms		New Jobs		Total Wages		New Firms		New Jobs		Total Wages	
	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide
NORTHWEST	272	13.9%	1,038	12.1%	\$10,842,471	7.9%	284	14.7%	980	12.3%	\$10,680,037	8.9%
Big Horn	18	0.9%	46	0.5%	\$467,567	0.3%	32	1.7%	96	1.2%	\$1,096,672	0.9%
Fremont	102	5.2%	301	3.5%	\$3,998,453	2.9%	115	6.0%	288	3.6%	\$3,514,652	2.9%
Hot Springs	9	0.5%	29	0.3%	\$247,020	0.2%	16	0.8%	35	0.4%	\$202,633	0.2%
Park	116	5.9%	392	4.6%	\$3,729,046	2.7%	103	5.3%	517	6.5%	\$5,464,227	4.6%
Washakie	27	1.4%	270	3.2%	\$2,400,385	1.7%	18	0.9%	44	0.6%	\$401,853	0.3%
NORTHEAST	342	17.5%	1,384	16.2%	\$19,021,767	13.8%	334	17.3%	1,254	15.8%	\$15,990,077	13.4%
Campbell	132	6.8%	777	9.1%	\$14,147,505	10.3%	140	7.2%	482	6.1%	\$7,332,957	6.1%
Crook	22	1.1%	92	1.1%	\$540,246	0.4%	17	0.9%	72	0.9%	\$587,430	0.5%
Johnson	41	2.1%	110	1.3%	\$1,011,611	0.7%	48	2.5%	173	2.2%	\$1,019,288	0.9%
Sheridan	136	7.0%	379	4.4%	\$3,196,970	2.3%	116	6.0%	499	6.3%	\$6,612,434	5.5%
Weston	11	0.6%	26	0.3%	\$125,435	0.1%	13	0.7%	28	0.4%	\$437,968	0.4%
SOUTHWEST	496	25.4%	2,319	27.1%	\$42,358,120	30.8%	494	25.6%	2,189	27.5%	\$49,040,174	40.9%
Lincoln	72	3.7%	241	2.8%	\$2,335,463	1.7%	73	3.8%	648	8.2%	\$11,972,468	10.0%
Sublette	39	2.0%	129	1.5%	\$3,209,949	2.3%	55	2.8%	141	1.8%	\$2,067,538	1.7%
Sweetwater	113	5.8%	321	3.8%	\$5,839,062	4.2%	105	5.4%	415	5.2%	\$7,316,602	6.1%
Teton	208	10.7%	981	11.5%	\$17,788,416	12.9%	187	9.7%	677	8.5%	\$22,692,425	18.9%
Uinta	64	3.3%	647	7.6%	\$13,185,230	9.6%	74	3.8%	308	3.9%	\$4,991,141	4.2%
SOUTHEAST	446	22.9%	2,016	23.6%	\$31,579,630	23.0%	447	23.1%	1,828	23.0%	\$19,349,737	16.2%
Albany	100	5.1%	390	4.6%	\$10,394,718	7.6%	104	5.4%	360	4.5%	\$3,188,168	2.7%
Goshen	29	1.5%	88	1.0%	\$623,842	0.5%	36	1.9%	104	1.3%	\$573,178	0.5%
Laramie	271	13.9%	1,366	16.0%	\$18,476,556	13.4%	276	14.3%	1,271	16.0%	\$14,554,685	12.2%
Niobrara	9	0.5%	10	0.1%	\$93,615	0.1%	8	0.4%	23	0.3%	\$68,299	0.1%
Platte	37	1.9%	162	1.9%	\$1,990,899	1.4%	23	1.2%	70	0.9%	\$965,407	0.8%
CENTRAL	313	16.0%	1,039	12.1%	\$12,355,562	9.0%	305	15.8%	1,151	14.5%	\$14,473,963	12.1%
Carbon	62	3.2%	166	1.9%	\$1,497,553	1.1%	40	2.1%	158	2.0%	\$1,094,583	0.9%
Converse	32	1.6%	92	1.1%	\$1,182,652	0.9%	47	2.4%	168	2.1%	\$3,295,141	2.8%
Natrona	219	11.2%	781	9.1%	\$9,675,357	7.0%	218	11.3%	825	10.4%	\$10,084,239	8.4%
Unclassified ^b	82	4.2%	764	8.9%	\$21,366,606	15.5%	68	3.5%	544	6.8%	\$10,234,208	8.5%
STATEWIDE	1,951	100.0%	8,560	100.0%	\$137,524,156	100.0%	1,932	100.0%	7,946	100.0%	\$119,768,196	100.0%

^aNew jobs represent the highest average quarterly employment during the first two quarters of business.

^bUnclassified includes all firms missing county information or those having more than one county location (multi-county firms).

(27.5%) in 2003 with \$49.0 million (40.9%) in wages.

The Southeast was the second-fastest developing region in 2002 and 2003 with 446 and 447 new firms, respectively. A total of 2,016 new jobs (23.6%) were added with \$31.6 million (23.0%) in wages in 2002 and 1,828 new jobs (23.0%) with \$19.3 million (16.2%) in wages in 2003.

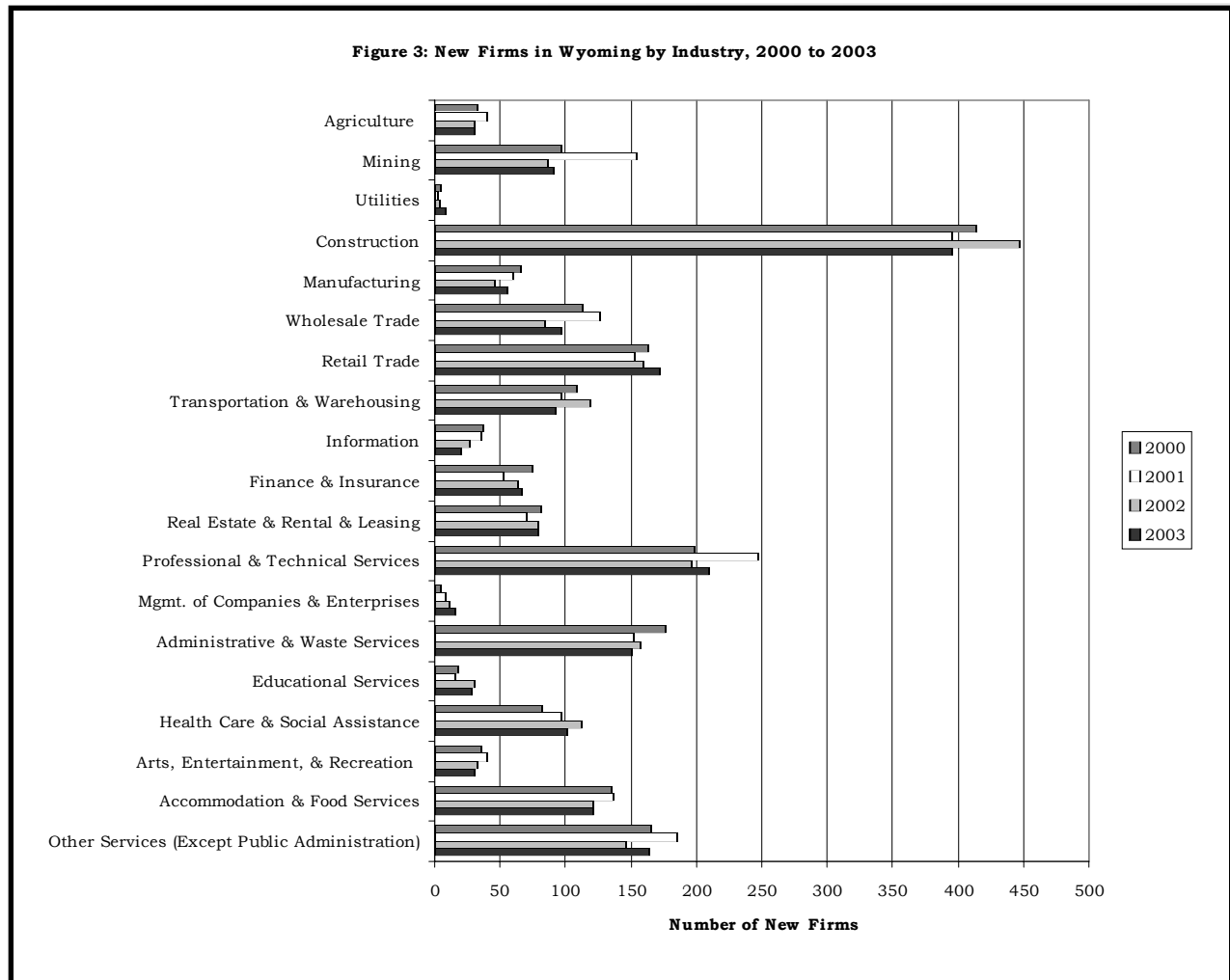
Laramie, Natrona, and Teton counties attracted the most new firms. Laramie County's 271 new firms in 2002 contributed 1,366 jobs and \$18.5 million in wages. In 2003, Laramie County's 276 new firms created 1,271 jobs and \$14.6 million in wages. Natrona County added 219 new firms in 2002, which created 781 jobs and \$9.7 million in wages. A total of 825 new jobs and \$10.0 million in wages were added to Natrona County from 218 new firms in 2003. Teton County's 208 new firms in 2002 created 981 jobs and \$17.8 million in wages. In 2003, Teton County's 187 new firms created 677 jobs and \$22.7 million in wages. The associated wages per new jobs created by Teton County's new firms are much higher than wages in either Natrona or Laramie counties. This may be due to the types of new businesses or the higher cost of living in Teton County relative to other Wyoming counties.

Industry Distribution

Construction attracted the most new firms in Wyoming (see Figure 3 and Table 2, pages 7 and 8, respectively). There were 447 new Construction firms (22.9% of state total) in 2002 and 395 (20.4%) in 2003. The Construction industry also led other industries in associated new jobs and wages. In 2002, this industry provided 2,361 new jobs (27.6% of state

total) and \$43.1 million in wages (31.3%). The levels declined significantly in 2003, but new firms in the industry still added the most jobs and wages in the state (1,650 jobs and \$27.0 million in wages). Professional & Technical Services had the second-largest number of new firms in Wyoming, 196 (10.0%) in 2002 and 209 (10.8%) in 2003. However, with only one to two employees per firm on average, Professional & Technical Services provided only 375 new jobs (4.4%) and \$11.5 million in wages (8.3%) in 2002. In 2003, 344 jobs (4.3%) and \$7.8 million in wages (6.5%) were created in the industry.

Accommodation & Food Services had the second-largest number of new jobs in both years (1,569 or 8.3% of the state total in 2002 and 1,191 new jobs or 15.0% in 2003), while Retail Trade ranked third (835 new jobs or 9.8% in 2002, and 883 new jobs or 11.1% in 2003). Wages in these two industries are typically low. As a result, the new firms in these two industries added just \$4.7 million (3.9%) and \$7.7 (6.4%) million in wages, respectively, in 2003. Although Health Care & Social Assistance ranked seventh in new firm formation, it ranked fourth as a new job provider and second as a wage contributor in 2003, with 705 jobs (8.9%) and \$12.3 million (10.3%) in wages. The number of new Information firms declined during the past four years, but its associated new jobs and wages increased from 2002 to 2003. Information added 268 jobs in 2003 (up from 61 jobs in 2002) and \$6.3 million in wages (up from \$1.0 million in wages in 2002). Mining, a major contributor to the state's economy, experienced a significant decline in new business formation from 2001. From 2001 to 2002, the number of new firms declined from 154 to 86 (a change of 44.2%), but in 2003 the number rose



slightly to 91. The new firms in 2001 were associated primarily with a coal bed methane boom during that period.

Local business environments (e.g., demand for their services or products, number of competitors, city or town size) and natural resource availability (e.g., the location of large coal deposits in the Northeast Region or trona in the Southwest) are two of the major components affecting geographic industry distribution. The exact impact these or other factors have on new firm

location is beyond the scope of this study, but they are nonetheless worth mentioning. For example, our data shows that most new Mining firms (63.8%) were located in the Northeast and Southwest regions (see Table 3, page 9). Thirty percent of new Construction firms began operations in the Southwest Region. More than one-half (52.6%) of the new firms in Professional & Technical Services originated in the Southeast and Southwest regions.

The impact of new business formation

Table 2: Wyoming Public and Private Sector New Firms, Associated New Jobs, and Annual Wages by Industry, 2002 and 2003

Industry	2002						2003					
	New Firms		New Jobs		Total Wages		New Firms		New Jobs		Total Wages	
	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide	Number	% of Statewide
Agriculture	30	1.5%	142	1.7%	\$1,651,876	1.2%	30	1.6%	95	1.2%	\$1,446,039	1.2%
Mining	86	4.4%	299	3.5%	\$8,339,257	6.1%	91	4.7%	382	4.8%	\$8,367,151	7.0%
Utilities	3	0.2%	6	0.1%	\$118,875	0.1%	8	0.4%	21	0.3%	\$306,681	0.3%
Construction	447	22.9%	2,361	27.6%	\$43,108,617	31.3%	395	20.4%	1,650	20.8%	\$27,018,449	22.6%
Manufacturing	45	2.3%	287	3.4%	\$3,075,800	2.2%	55	2.8%	256	3.2%	\$2,927,118	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	84	4.3%	233	2.7%	\$4,500,507	3.3%	96	5.0%	181	2.3%	\$5,114,452	4.3%
Retail Trade	159	8.1%	835	9.8%	\$10,465,973	7.6%	171	8.9%	883	11.1%	\$7,686,230	6.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	118	6.0%	378	4.4%	\$8,353,772	6.1%	92	4.8%	388	4.9%	\$5,487,700	4.6%
Information	26	1.3%	61	0.7%	\$1,091,841	0.8%	20	1.0%	268	3.4%	\$6,278,369	5.2%
Finance & Insurance	63	3.2%	124	1.4%	\$2,460,739	1.8%	66	3.4%	102	1.3%	\$1,953,515	1.6%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	79	4.0%	143	1.7%	\$2,896,036	2.1%	79	4.1%	184	2.3%	\$1,994,296	1.7%
Professional & Technical Services	196	10.0%	375	4.4%	\$11,460,306	8.3%	209	10.8%	344	4.3%	\$7,774,072	6.5%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	11	0.6%	58	0.7%	\$3,139,083	2.3%	15	0.8%	29	0.4%	\$12,115,510	10.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	157	8.0%	544	6.4%	\$5,939,224	4.3%	150	7.8%	576	7.2%	\$6,201,760	5.2%
Educational Services	30	1.5%	96	1.1%	\$5,183,911	3.8%	28	1.4%	141	1.8%	\$2,397,431	2.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	112	5.7%	556	6.5%	\$11,682,614	8.5%	101	5.2%	705	8.9%	\$12,280,818	10.3%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	32	1.6%	93	1.1%	\$529,387	0.4%	30	1.6%	135	1.7%	\$773,193	0.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	121	6.2%	1,569	18.3%	\$9,548,771	6.9%	121	6.3%	1,191	15.0%	\$4,711,667	3.9%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	146	7.5%	378	4.4%	\$3,691,066	2.7%	164	8.5%	355	4.5%	\$4,378,564	3.7%
Government	5	0.3%	21	0.2%	\$284,677	0.2%	10	0.5%	60	0.8%	\$551,913	0.5%
Unclassified ^a	1	0.1%	1	0.0%	\$1,824	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	\$3,268	0.0%
Total	1,951	100.0%	8,560	100.0%	\$137,524,156	100.0%	1,932	100.0%	7,946	100.0%	\$119,768,196	100.0%

^aUnclassified includes all firms missing industry information.

also varies widely across industries. For example, in 2002 Educational Services had a 23.1 percent formation rate and Utilities stood at only 5.6 percent (see Table 4, page 9). However, more than one-third of the major industries had double-digit new business formation rates in both 2002 and 2003. This may indicate greater industry diversification. Those industries, in the order of the 2003 formation rate, are: Management of Companies & Enterprises (27.0%);

Educational Services (19.9%); Administrative & Waste Services (13.7%); Construction (12.4%); Transportation & Warehousing (12.2%); Professional & Technical Services (11.6%); and Mining (11.7%). New firms in Management of Companies & Enterprises had a 15.7 percent employment impact in 2003 (the largest among the industries) and a 50.3 percent wage impact (the strongest). The

(Text continued on page 10)

Table 3: New Public and Private Sector Firms by Industry and Wyoming Region, 2002 and 2003

Industry	Region					Unclassified ^a	Statewide
	North west	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast	Central		
Agriculture	15	11	9	17	6	ND	60
Mining	18	59	54	4	36	6	177
Utilities	3	ND	ND	ND	3	0	11
Construction	103	158	253	188	108	32	842
Manufacturing	19	16	23	24	18	0	100
Wholesale Trade	14	31	35	53	33	14	180
Retail Trade	65	53	68	77	62	5	330
Transportation & Warehousing	22	41	59	44	39	5	210
Information	4	8	16	10	3	5	46
Finance & Insurance	13	17	28	39	24	8	129
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	36	24	38	38	21	ND	158
Professional & Technical Services	51	66	100	113	55	20	405
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	5	4	8	8	ND	0	26
Administrative & Waste Services	31	35	88	66	54	33	307
Educational Services	6	5	12	17	12	6	58
Health Care & Social Assistance	35	37	46	58	34	3	213
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	15	6	18	9	12	2	62
Accommodation & Food Services	54	45	59	46	36	ND	242
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	44	54	71	80	58	3	310
Government	3	3	2	ND	ND	3	15
Unclassified ^a	0	ND	ND	0	0	0	2
Total	556	673	987	891	614	145	3,883

ND - Not Discloseable.

^aUnclassified includes all firms missing county or industry information or those having more than one county location (multi-county firms).**Table 4: Wyoming New Business Formation Rate,^a and Impact on Employment^b and Wages^c by Industry, 2002 and 2003**

Industry	2002			2003		
	New Business Formation Rate ^a	Employment Impact ^b	Wage Impact ^c	New Business Formation Rate ^a	Employment Impact ^b	Wage Impact ^c
Agriculture	8.0%	6.2%	3.2%	8.0%	4.2%	2.8%
Mining	11.3%	1.7%	0.9%	11.7%	2.1%	0.8%
Utilities	5.6%	0.3%	0.1%	14.2%	1.0%	0.2%
Construction	14.2%	11.8%	6.6%	12.4%	8.4%	4.2%
Manufacturing	7.2%	2.8%	0.8%	8.7%	2.6%	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	8.4%	3.4%	1.8%	9.6%	2.6%	1.9%
Retail Trade	7.0%	2.7%	1.8%	7.6%	3.0%	1.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	15.7%	5.8%	4.1%	12.2%	5.5%	2.4%
Information	9.3%	1.4%	0.9%	7.2%	6.2%	4.8%
Finance & Insurance	9.2%	1.9%	1.1%	9.5%	1.5%	0.8%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9.7%	4.1%	3.5%	9.4%	5.2%	2.3%
Professional & Technical Services	10.9%	5.0%	4.2%	11.6%	4.7%	2.9%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	17.8%	26.2%	16.8%	27.0%	15.7%	50.3%
Administrative & Waste Services	14.7%	7.3%	4.0%	13.7%	7.4%	3.8%
Educational Services	23.1%	9.1%	18.9%	19.9%	12.0%	9.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	9.1%	3.1%	2.3%	7.9%	3.8%	2.2%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7.5%	3.8%	1.6%	7.0%	5.4%	2.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	7.6%	5.8%	3.0%	7.6%	4.3%	1.4%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	9.2%	5.1%	2.5%	10.4%	4.9%	2.9%
Total	10.5%	4.7%	2.7%	10.3%	4.3%	2.2%

^aNew business formation rate is the percentage of new firms compared with the total number of firms in a specific industry.^bEmployment impact is the proportion of jobs in a specific industry.^cWage impact is the proportion of wages in a specific industry.

new firms in Educational Services ranked second with a 12.0 percent employment impact rate in 2003.

Business Survival

The survival rate in this study only looks at survival of a business under the original owner. A firm may be incorporated, sold, split, or merged with other firms and still conduct the same business activities, but due to complexity (i.e., information availability) of business transfers, it will not be considered a “survivor” in this study.

Statewide, more than two-thirds (68.0%) of the new firms survived one year in business. More than one-half (53.5%) survived two years, and 43.8 percent survived three years (see Table 5).

Survival rates vary across counties. For example, about 74.9 percent of the new firms in Washakie County survived one year in business, while only about 61.4 percent in Platte County survived. More than one-half (51.7%) of the new firms in Weston County, but just 38.8 percent of the new firms in Goshen County, remained in business three years. Of the three counties with the most new business formations in 2002 and 2003 (Laramie, Natrona, and Teton), Natrona County showed the best survival rates: 70.1 percent for one year, 55.3 percent for two years, and 44.5 percent for three years. Also, of those counties it was the only which had one-, two-, and three-year survival rates higher than the state average.

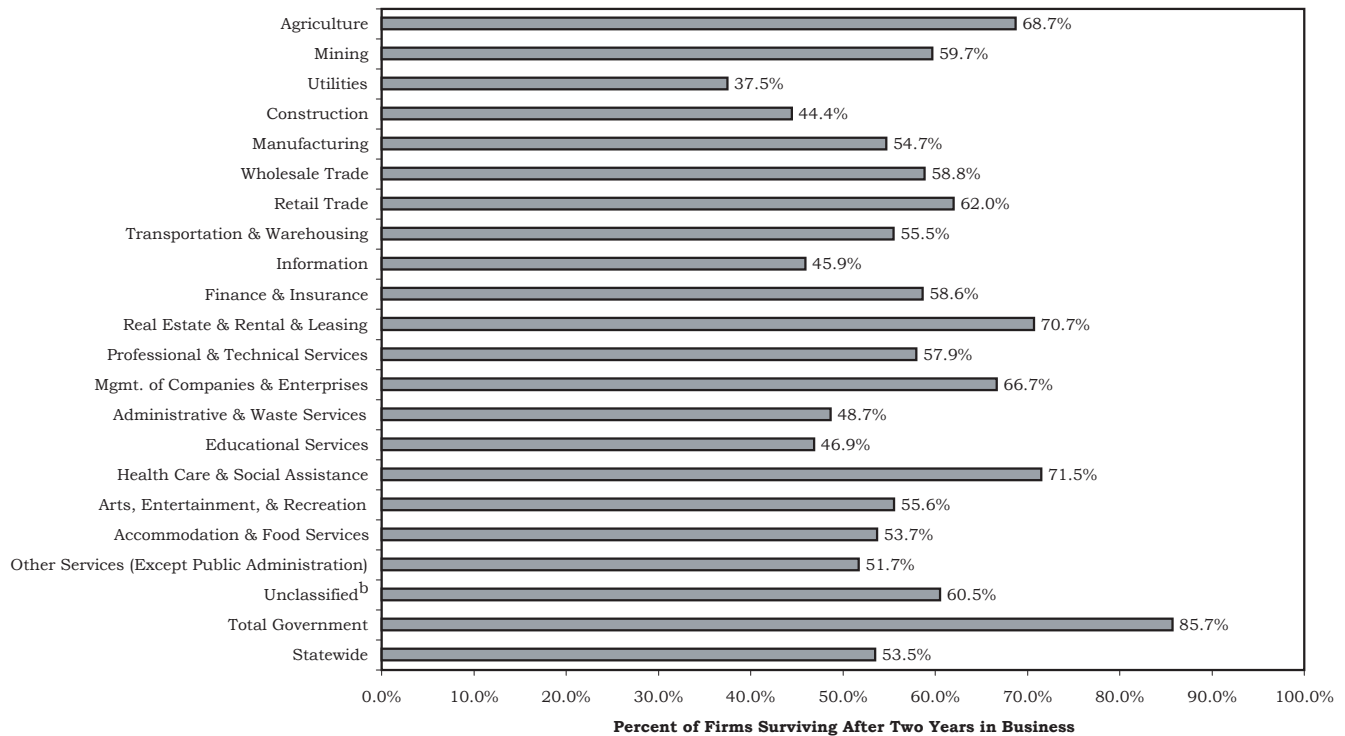
Survival rates also vary significantly across industries (see Figure 4, page 11). In the private sector, firms in Health Care & Social Assistance had the best survival

Table 5: New Business Survival Rates^a by Wyoming Region and County

	Survival Rates ^a		
	One Year	Two Year	Three Year
NORTHWEST	67.0%	54.2%	45.2%
Big Horn	63.5%	51.7%	44.5%
Fremont	65.7%	52.6%	43.4%
Hot Springs	70.3%	51.7%	40.8%
Park	66.8%	55.9%	46.8%
Washakie	74.9%	58.1%	50.0%
NORTHEAST	70.0%	55.1%	45.2%
Campbell	70.3%	54.4%	43.8%
Crook	68.4%	51.8%	40.1%
Johnson	71.4%	55.9%	41.8%
Sheridan	70.5%	55.7%	47.9%
Weston	63.2%	58.6%	51.7%
SOUTHWEST	67.5%	52.4%	42.8%
Lincoln	62.4%	48.6%	42.1%
Sublette	74.4%	59.3%	50.4%
Sweetwater	64.2%	51.0%	38.9%
Teton	69.3%	52.2%	43.3%
Uinta	68.8%	54.7%	44.2%
SOUTHEAST	68.6%	53.7%	43.0%
Albany	70.4%	56.8%	45.9%
Goshen	65.2%	50.9%	38.8%
Laramie	69.2%	53.2%	42.6%
Niobrara	68.7%	55.3%	45.2%
Platte	61.4%	50.0%	41.2%
CENTRAL	69.6%	54.7%	45.4%
Carbon	68.7%	54.5%	46.3%
Converse	67.9%	50.7%	49.8%
Natrona	70.1%	55.3%	44.5%
Unclassified^b	58.3%	46.5%	37.4%
STATEWIDE	68.0%	53.5%	43.8%

^aThe one-year survival rate is the number of one-year survivals divided by the number of new firms that registered the prior year with the Department of Employment, Employment Tax Division. One-year survival rates looked at firms which registered from 1993 to 2002; two-year survivals included those registered from 1993 to 2001; and, three-year survivals analyzed firms registered from 1993 to 2000.

^bUnclassified includes all firms missing county information or those having more than one county location (multi-county firms).

Figure 4: Two-Year Survival Rates^a of New Businesses in Wyoming by Industry

^aThe two-year survival rate is the number of two-year survivals divided by the number of new firms that registered between 1993 and 2001 with the Department of Employment, Employment Tax Division.

^bUnclassified includes all firms missing industry information.

rate after two years in business (71.5%), followed by Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (70.7%). The lowest two-year survival rates were in Utilities and Construction at 37.5 and 44.4 percent, respectively.

Summary and Discussion

Compared to the prior two years, Wyoming's new business formation slowed somewhat in 2002 and 2003, corresponding with contraction of the

national economy. Even though the annual number of new firms in 2002 and 2003 was still higher than in most years since 1993, the formation rate fell because of the continued growth in the number of firms.

The Southwest was the fastest developing region in the state. More than one-quarter of the state's new firms began operating in this region in each of these two years. The Southeast Region was the second-fastest developing. Laramie,

Natrona, and Teton counties generated the largest number of new firms.

Construction had the most new firms during 2002 and 2003, and was also the largest provider of new jobs and associated wages. However, while the number of new firms in Construction was high, they had the lowest survival rate. Professional & Technical Services had the second largest number of new firms in the state. However, this industry did not provide a significant number of jobs due to typically small business size. New business formation in the Mining industry slowed markedly compared with 2001, when coal bed methane was experiencing rapid development.

One industry's new business formation could be a function of or associated with another industry's formation. For example, the new business formation in Transportation & Warehousing may be directly related to new businesses in the Construction industry. The formation in Professional & Technical Services may also be associated with new firm development in Mining. Figure 3 (see page 7) shows a similar new business pattern over the years between those industries. Many new firms in Mining would have a large demand for geophysical surveying and mapping services, engineering services, etc. (which are included in Professional & Technical Services). As a result, this large demand would stimulate other new firms to engage in corresponding activities.

In addition to the demand for products or services, the level of new business formation in a specific industry may also depend on the required level of capital and human resources to set up a new business. For example, in Construction,

especially in residential building, a worker such as a plumber or a carpenter who had obtained skills while working for another company for a few years could set up his/her own business easily without a large investment in office equipment or employees. In contrast, firms in industries like Manufacturing would require a larger supply of human and capital resources before starting a new business. They may need to build a new or buy an existing facility, purchase equipment, and hire employees before their business could actually open.

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Covered Employment and Wages for Second Quarter 2004: Employment Growth Remains Healthy

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tables by: *Nancy Brennan, Economist*

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment increased by 7,290 jobs or 3.0 percent during second quarter 2004 compared to second quarter 2003. Second quarter's employment increase is well above the five-year average growth rate of 2.0 percent (see Table 1). Total payroll increased by \$128.2 million or 7.2 percent, slightly higher than its five-year average (6.2%). Average weekly wage increased by \$23 or 4.1 percent, matching its five-year average (4.1%). Additionally, employment increased in every region during second quarter.

Table 2 (see page 14) shows that employment and payroll growth during second quarter 2004 was practically the same as first quarter 2004. After

increasing for several quarters, payroll growth appears to have leveled off at 7.2 percent (see Figure, page 14).

Employment growth also seems to have stabilized during second quarter.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

The purpose of this article is to show employment and payroll changes between second quarter 2003 and second quarter 2004. These economic changes help us gauge the strength of Wyoming's economy and identify the fastest and slowest growing industries and geographic areas.

The largest job gains occurred in State Government; Mining; Accommodation & Food Services; Health Care & Social

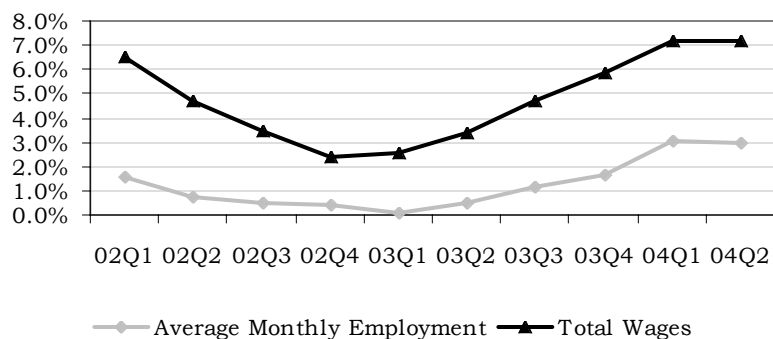
Table 1: Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Second Quarter, 2000 to 2004 (2000Q2 to 2004Q2)

	Average Monthly Employment Percent Change		Total Wages Percent Change		Average Weekly Wage Percent Change	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
2000Q2	2.8	5.7	7.5	5.0	4.5	-0.6
2001Q2	2.8	5.8	8.2	7.0	5.3	1.1
2002Q2	1.0	5.2	4.9	5.3	3.8	0.1
2003Q2	0.5	5.6	3.3	6.1	2.8	0.4
2004Q2	3.0	5.6	7.2	6.0	4.1	0.4
5-Year Average for Q2	2.0	5.6	6.2	5.9	4.1	0.3

Table 2: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for First Quarter 2002 (2002Q1) to 2004Q2

	Percent Change	
	Average Monthly Employment	Total Wages
2002Q1	1.6	6.5
2002Q2	0.7	4.7
2002Q3	0.5	3.5
2002Q4	0.4	2.4
2003Q1	0.1	2.6
2003Q2	0.5	3.3
2003Q3	1.2	4.7
2003Q4	1.7	5.9
2004Q1	3.1	7.2
2004Q2	3.0	7.2

Figure: Over-the-Year Percentage Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages For First Quarter 2002 to Second Quarter 2004



Assistance; and Transportation & Warehousing (see Table 3, page 14).

State government employment increased by 1,735 jobs or 13.7 percent. However, a large part of this gain (1,500 jobs) was the result of a new payroll system in a unit of state government. This new payroll system was also responsible for \$2 million of the increase in state government payroll.

Mining added 1,680 jobs or 9.4 percent during second quarter. The vast majority of job gains in Mining were found in support activities for mining. These employment increases are likely related to natural gas drilling activity around the state.

Accommodation & Food Services grew by 599 jobs or 2.1 percent. About three-quarters of the growth was in accommodation.

Employment in Health Care & Social Assistance increased by 590 jobs or 3.2 percent. This industry was also affected by noneconomic code changes (see box accompanying this article, page 19). In particular, a large employer had its code changed from administrative & support services (NAICS 561) to social assistance (NAICS 624). Another large employer changed from private ownership to local government (and thus moved from Health Care & Social Assistance to Local Government on Table 3).

Transportation & Warehousing created 474 jobs (6.9%) during second quarter. Large gains were seen in truck transportation and warehousing & storage.

Although Table 3 (see page 14) shows that employment decreased by 705 jobs (or 8.9%) in Administrative & Waste Services, this was mostly due to various

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Second Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	243,431	250,721	7,290	3.0	\$1,780,503,235	\$1,908,715,798	\$128,212,563	7.2	\$563	\$586	\$23	4.1
Total Private (11-99)	183,533	188,811	5,279	2.9	\$1,280,222,163	\$1,385,687,472	\$105,465,309	8.2	\$537	\$565	\$28	5.2
Agriculture (11)	2,402	2,545	143	6.0	12,428,573	13,457,207	1,028,634	8.3	398	407	9	2.2
Mining (21)	17,968	19,648	1,680	9.4	245,426,250	278,861,191	33,434,941	13.6	1,051	1,092	41	3.9
Utilities (22)	2,144	2,218	74	3.5	38,800,434	39,089,308	288,874	0.7	1,392	1,355	-37	-2.6
Construction (23)	19,619	20,012	392	2.0	153,596,575	160,089,871	6,493,296	4.2	602	615	13	2.2
Manufacturing (31-33)	9,088	9,329	241	2.7	82,037,059	87,621,812	5,584,753	6.8	694	722	28	4.0
Wholesale Trade (42)	6,981	7,381	400	5.7	66,254,536	75,256,315	9,001,779	13.6	730	784	54	7.4
Retail Trade (44-45)	29,787	30,028	241	0.8	141,787,626	148,848,214	7,060,588	5.0	366	381	15	4.1
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	6,882	7,356	474	6.9	53,805,672	59,132,546	5,326,874	9.9	601	618	17	2.8
Information (51)	4,191	4,240	49	1.2	30,438,797	31,900,752	1,461,955	4.8	559	579	20	3.6
Finance & Insurance (52)	6,668	6,883	215	3.2	57,551,530	61,307,218	3,755,688	6.5	664	685	21	3.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	3,431	3,588	157	4.6	20,334,188	22,132,018	1,797,830	8.8	456	474	19	4.1
Professional & Technical Services (54)	7,431	7,701	270	3.6	63,848,891	69,632,709	5,783,818	9.1	661	696	35	5.2
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	515	739	225	43.7	6,374,425	\$12,206,329 ^b	5,831,904	91.5	953	1,270	317	33.3
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	7,964	7,259	-705 ^c	-8.9	38,533,922	37,557,624	-976,298	-2.5	372	398	26	6.9
Educational Services (61)	1,153	1,220	67	5.8	5,677,684	6,699,142	1,021,458	18.0	379	423	44	11.5
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	18,674	19,264	590 ^d	3.2	136,345,674	145,996,181	9,650,507	7.1	562	583	21	3.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	2,678	2,740	62	2.3	8,498,482	10,062,815	1,564,333	18.4	244	283	38	15.7
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	28,523	29,123	599	2.1	78,885,455	85,455,881	6,570,426	8.3	213	226	13	6.1
Other Services (81)	7,432	7,537	104	1.4	39,596,390	40,380,339	783,949	2.0	410	412	2	0.6
Total Government	59,898	61,909	2,011	3.4	\$500,281,072	\$523,028,326	\$22,747,254	4.5	\$642	\$650	\$7	1.2
Federal Government	7,665	7,658	-7	-0.1	83,664,283	91,714,621	\$8,050,338	9.6	840	921	82	9.7
State Government	12,700	14,435	1,735 ^e	13.7	116,123,765	121,311,629	\$5,187,864	4.5	703	646	-57	-8.1
Local Government	39,533	39,816	283 ^f	0.7	300,493,024	310,002,076	\$9,509,052	3.2	585	599	14	2.4

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

^bOne CEO paid in excess of \$1.0 million. Noneconomic code change employment increase of 166 from Mining (21) and Construction (23).

^cDecrease mostly due to various large employers' code changes from administrative & support services (561) to various subsectors.

^dIncrease partially due to large employer code change from administrative & support services (561) to social assistance (624). Large employer ownership change in nursing & residential care facilities (623) from private ownership to local government ownership.

^eIncrease of approximately 1,500 employees and \$2 million due to new payroll system in place first quarter 2004.

^fIncrease due to large employer ownership change in nursing & residential care facilities (623) from private ownership to local government ownership.

large employers' code changes from administrative & support services (NAICS 561) to various subsectors (including Health Care & Social Assistance).

Employment in Management of Companies & Enterprises was affected by noneconomic code changes of 166 employees from Mining and Construction.

Local Government employment grew by 283 jobs or 0.7 percent in second quarter. Part of this increase was due to an ownership change of a nursing & residential care facility (NAICS 623) from

private ownership to local government control.

Statewide total payroll increased by \$128.2 million or 7.2 percent. As in previous quarters, Mining was by far the largest contributor to this gain, increasing by \$33.4 million or 13.6 percent. Other large contributors included Health Care & Social Assistance (\$9.7 million or 7.1%), Local Government (\$9.5 million or 3.2%), and Wholesale Trade (\$9.0 million or 13.6%).

Total payroll in Management of

Companies & Enterprises increased by \$5.8 million or 91.5 percent during second quarter. This included over \$1 million paid to one CEO.

Campbell County gained 1,033 jobs or 5.0 percent during second quarter. Substantial job growth was seen in Mining (including oil & gas), Construction, Wholesale Trade, and Other Services.

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 4, employment increased in every region during second quarter.

Sweetwater County continued to grow in second quarter, adding 902 jobs or 4.6 percent. Among the faster growing

Table 4: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Second Quarter by Region and County, 2003 and 2004

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amount	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
TOTAL	243,431	250,721	7,290	3.0	\$1,780,503,235	\$1,908,715,798	\$128,212,563	7.2	\$563	\$586	\$23	4.1
NORTHWEST	37,547	38,022	476	1.3	\$233,543,753	\$249,387,296	\$15,843,543	6.8	\$478	\$505	\$26	5.4
Big Horn	4,289	4,425	137	3.2	30,651,940	31,862,067	1,210,127	3.9	550	554	4	0.7
Fremont	14,705	14,841	135	0.9	92,531,319	99,334,248	6,802,929	7.4	484	515	31	6.4
Hot Springs Park	1,924	1,929	5	0.3	9,966,512	10,105,534	139,022	1.4	398	403	4	1.1
Washakie	12,962	13,110	148	1.1	76,926,203	82,766,719	5,840,516	7.6	457	486	29	6.4
Washakie	3,666	3,717	50	1.4	23,467,779	25,318,728	1,850,949	7.9	492	524	32	6.4
NORTHEAST	39,691	41,192	1,501	3.8	\$311,066,281	\$338,973,590	\$27,907,309	9.0	\$603	\$633	\$30	5.0
Campbell	20,588	21,620	1,033	5.0	189,961,199	208,687,320	18,726,121	9.9	710	742	33	4.6
Crook	2,047	2,094	46	2.3	12,867,777	13,668,612	800,835	6.2	483	502	19	3.9
Johnson	2,977	3,160	184	6.2	17,485,702	19,188,197	1,702,495	9.7	452	467	15	3.4
Sheridan	11,878	12,116	238	2.0	77,167,895	83,495,860	6,327,965	8.2	500	530	30	6.1
Weston	2,201	2,202	0	0.0	13,583,708	13,933,601	349,893	2.6	475	487	12	2.6
SOUTHWEST	53,228	54,838	1,610	3.0	\$421,441,911	\$450,752,858	\$29,310,947	7.0	\$609	\$632	\$23	3.8
Lincoln	6,086	6,145	60	1.0	47,005,426	48,782,152	1,776,726	3.8	594	611	16	2.8
Sublette	2,727	3,069	342	12.5	20,523,259	23,122,919	2,599,660	12.7	579	580	1	0.1
Sweetwater	19,530	20,432	902	4.6	183,395,929	196,240,611	12,844,682	7.0	722	739	16	2.3
Teton	16,428	16,526	98	0.6	114,285,839	122,133,896	7,848,057	6.9	535	568	33	6.2
Uinta	8,458	8,666	208	2.5	56,231,458	60,473,280	4,241,822	7.5	511	537	25	5.0
SOUTHEAST	62,363	65,241	2,877	4.6	\$435,072,240	\$464,124,322	\$29,052,082	6.7	\$537	\$547	\$11	2.0
Albany	14,921	16,931	2010 ^a	13.5	101,681,470	113,836,956	12,155,486	12.0	524	517	-7	-1.3
Goshen	4,050	4,075	26	0.6	22,584,900	23,094,555	509,655	2.3	429	436	7	1.6
Laramie	39,243	39,964	721	1.8	282,539,864	297,236,643	14,696,779	5.2	554	572	18	3.3
Niobrara	801	778	-22	-2.8	4,358,259	4,444,060	85,801	2.0	419	439	20	4.9
Platte	3,349	3,492	143	4.3	23,907,747	25,512,108	1,604,361	6.7	549	562	13	2.4
CENTRAL	44,589	46,369	1,780	4.0	\$328,034,165	\$360,024,030	\$31,989,865	9.8	\$566	\$597	\$31	5.5
Carbon	6,332	6,562	230	3.6	40,333,099	42,693,106	2,360,007	5.9	490	500	10	2.1
Converse	4,497	4,631	134	3.0	35,301,675	36,422,610	1,120,935	3.2	604	605	1	0.2
Natrona	33,760	35,176	1,416	4.2	252,399,391	280,908,314	28,508,923	11.3	575	614	39	6.8
Nonclassified^b	6,013	5,058	-955	-15.9	\$51,344,885	\$45,453,702	-\$5,891,183	-11.5	\$657	\$691	\$34	5.2

^aIncrease of approximately 1,500 employees and \$2 million due to new payroll system in place first quarter 2004.

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

industries were Mining (including oil & gas), Construction, Retail Trade, and Accommodation & Food Services.

Sublette County gained 342 jobs or 12.5 percent. Notable job growth occurred in Mining (including oil & gas), Construction, and Accommodations & Food Services.

Natrona County continued to grow, adding 1,416 jobs or 4.2 percent during second quarter (see Table 5). Similar to the situation at the statewide level, the largest job gains occurred in Mining

(including oil & gas). Some of the 492 jobs gained in Mining were the result of a large employer (previously classified as "statewide") providing a more detailed breakout. Construction was also affected by a large employer breaking out employment at the county level.

Management of Companies & Enterprises grew by 47 jobs (352.5%) due to a new breakout of large company from heavy & civil engineering construction (NAICS 237) in Lincoln County to management of companies & enterprises (NAICS 551) in Natrona County.

Table 5: Natrona County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Second Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change No.	%	Second Quarter		Change Amount	%	Second Quarter		Change Amt.	%
	2003	2004			2003	2004			2003	2004		
Total, All Industries	33,760	35,176	1,416	4.2	\$252,399,391	\$280,908,314	\$28,508,923	11.3	\$575	\$614	\$39	6.8
Total Private (11-99)	28,334	29,708	1,374	4.8%	\$200,495,376	\$228,014,614	\$27,519,238	13.7	\$544	\$590	\$46	8.5
Agriculture (11)	117	125	8	6.8	579,133	474,671	-104,462	-18.0	381	292	-89	-23.3
Mining (21)	2,252	2,743	492 ^b	21.8	26,212,743	36,149,527	9,936,784	37.9	895	1,014	118	13.2
Utilities (22)	89	98	9	9.7	1,930,839	1,982,887	52,048	2.7	1,669	1,562	-107	-6.4
Construction (23)	2,379	2,430	51 ^c	2.1	18,423,087	19,544,229	1,121,142	6.1	596	619	23	3.9
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,454	1,574	121	8.3	11,735,190	13,555,683	1,820,493	15.5	621	662	41	6.7
Wholesale Trade (42)	2,133	2,351	218	10.2	20,991,110	25,003,777	4,012,667	19.1	757	818	61	8.1
Retail Trade (44-45)	4,626	4,732	106	2.3	23,281,740	25,419,316	2,137,576	9.2	387	413	26	6.7
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	894	927	33	3.7	7,245,838	8,108,162	862,324	11.9	624	673	49	7.9
Information (51)	497	564	67	13.6	3,328,749	4,200,865	872,116	26.2	516	573	57	11.1
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,014	1,041	28	2.7	9,298,963	10,481,314	1,182,351	12.7	706	774	69	9.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	799	807	7	0.9	5,113,282	6,014,502	901,220	17.6	492	574	81	16.6
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,159	1,229	70	6.1	10,684,527	11,415,671	731,144	6.8	709	715	5	0.7
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	13	60	47 ^d	352.5	164,056	1,304,566	\$1,140,510 ^d	695.2	946	1,663	717	75.7
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	1,961	1,716	-245 ^e	-12.5	8,837,912	7,864,395	-973,517	-11.0	347	353	6	1.7
Educational Services (61)	107	131	24	22.4	376,255	426,657	50,402	13.4	270	251	-20	-7.4
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	4,185	4,379	194	4.6	35,372,854	37,843,615	2,470,761	7.0	650	665	15	2.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	459	509	50	10.9	1,273,777	1,854,504	580,727	45.6	214	280	67	31.3
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	2,922	3,017	94	3.2	7,558,898	8,274,787	715,889	9.5	199	211	12	6.0
Other Services (81)	1,275	1,275	0	0.0	8,086,423	8,095,486	9,063	0.1	488	488	1	0.1
Total Government	5,426	5,469	42	0.8	\$51,904,015	\$52,893,700	\$989,685	1.9	\$736	\$744	\$8	1.1
Federal Government	708	710	3	0.4	9,711,410	10,245,165	533,755	5.5	1,056	1,109	54	5.1
State Government	718	713	-5	-0.7	6,518,508	6,400,796	-117,712	-1.8	698	691	-7	-1.1
Local Government	4,001	4,046	45	1.1	35,674,097	36,247,739	573,642	1.6	686	689	3	0.5

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

^bSeveral new employers. One large employer provided a more detailed breakout. Increase in percentage of lower-paid employees.

^cLarge employer breakout in heavy & civil engineering construction (237) from Lincoln County to Natrona County. Large employer in heavy & civil engineering construction (237) from Natrona County to Sublette County.

^dNew breakout of large company from heavy & civil engineering construction (237) in Lincoln County to management of companies & enterprises (551) in Natrona County. Increase of higher-paid employees.

^eSeveral employer reclassifications and breakouts from administrative & support services (561) to various subsectors and counties.

Employment fell in two industries in Natrona County. Administrative & Waste Services lost 245 jobs or 12.5 percent, mostly as the result of several employer reclassifications and breakouts from administrative & support services (NAICS 561) to other subsectors and counties. State Government employment fell slightly, losing 5 jobs or 0.7 percent.

Laramie County grew by 721 jobs or 1.8 percent (see Table 6, page 18). Transportation & Warehousing added 291 jobs or 21.5 percent. Other notable increases were seen in Accommodation & Food Services (176 jobs or 4.4%), Health Care & Social Assistance (136 jobs or 4.7%), and Manufacturing (114 jobs or 7.7%).

In contrast to Natrona County and the state as a whole, several industries lost jobs in Laramie County. Administrative & Waste Services employment fell by 228 jobs or 11.4 percent. Some other industries with decreasing employment included Construction (-42 jobs or -1.6%), Information (-27 jobs or -2.5%), and State Government (-24 jobs or -0.6%).

In summary, Wyoming's economy grew at a healthy pace during second quarter. The Mining industry (including oil & gas) experienced the strongest employment growth, but some growth was seen in almost every industry and every region of the state.



Table 6: Laramie County Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Second Quarter by Industry, 2003 and 2004

Industry Title and NAICS ^a Sector	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
	2003	2004	No.	%	2003	2004	Amount	%	2003	2004	Amt.	%
Total, All Industries	39,243	39,964	721	1.8	\$282,539,864	\$297,236,643	\$14,696,779	5.2	\$554	\$572	18	3.3
Total Private (11-99)	26,976	27,672	696	2.6	\$172,909,012	\$182,789,771	\$9,880,759	5.7	\$493	\$508	\$15	3.1
Agriculture (11)	173	166	-7	-4.1	952,879	1,043,956	91,077	9.6	425	485	60	14.2
Mining (21)	35	73	38	107.6	351,211	743,772	392,561	111.8	772	787	15	2.0
Utilities (22)	116	114	-2	-1.4	1,582,106	1,648,973	66,867	4.2	1,049	1,109	60	5.7
Construction (23)	2,658	2,616	-42	-1.6	18,843,121	18,937,316	94,195	0.5	545	557	12	2.1
Manufacturing (31-33)	1,481	1,595	114 ^b	7.7	13,920,209	15,615,091	1,694,882	12.2	723	753	30	4.2
Wholesale Trade (42)	698	709	12	1.7	6,629,540	6,843,471	213,931	3.2	731	742	11	1.5
Retail Trade (44-45)	5,467	5,499	31	0.6	27,513,800	28,312,751	798,951	2.9	387	396	9	2.3
Transportation & Warehousing (48-49)	1,350	1,641	291	21.5	10,018,293	12,027,777	2,009,484	20.1	571	564	-7	-1.2
Information (51)	1,066	1,039	-27	-2.5	9,681,065	9,580,650	-100,415	-1.0	699	709	11	1.5
Finance & Insurance (52)	1,523	1,522	-2	-0.1	14,119,827	14,233,377	113,550	0.8	713	720	7	0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (53)	417	489	72	17.2	3,019,689	3,079,167	59,478	2.0	557	485	-72	-13.0
Professional & Technical Services (54)	1,301	1,381	80	6.1	12,076,439	14,169,938	2,093,499	17.3	714	789	75	10.6
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises (55)	150	170	20	13.1	1,772,966	1,616,074	-156,892	-8.8	909	733	-177	-19.4
Administrative & Waste Services (56)	2,001	1,772	-228	-11.4	9,435,436	9,133,954	-301,482	-3.2	363	396	34	9.3
Educational Services (61)	93	120	27	29.1	322,559	541,619	219,060	67.9	268	348	80	30.0
Health Care & Social Assistance (62)	2,905	3,041	136	4.7	23,812,911	25,577,489	1,764,578	7.4	631	647	16	2.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (71)	282	282	0	0.0	707,033	789,706	82,673	11.7	193	215	23	11.7
Accommodation & Food Services (72)	3,973	4,149	176	4.4	11,024,678	11,828,985	804,307	7.3	213	219	6	2.7
Other Services (81)	1,287	1,295	8	0.6	7,125,250	7,065,705	-59,545	-0.8	426	420	-6	-1.4
Total Government	12,267	12,292	25	0.2	\$109,630,852	\$114,446,872	\$4,816,020	4.4	\$687	\$716	\$29	4.2
Federal Government	2,578	2,600	22	0.8	29,518,106	31,977,768	2,459,662	8.3	881	946	65	7.4
State Government	3,819	3,794	-24	-0.6	37,868,166	37,853,792	-14,374	0.0	763	767	5	0.6
Local Government	5,870	5,898	28	0.5	42,244,580	44,615,312	2,370,732	5.6	554	582	28	5.1

^aNorth American Industry Classification System.

Comparability of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Data Over Time

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Each year, approximately one-third of employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted by mail questionnaire to confirm that they have been assigned to the correct industry category (e.g., Mining, Construction, Manufacturing) based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS; U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). If it is found that an employer has changed primary business activity, a different NAICS code is assigned to reflect that change. This is known as a noneconomic code change. Research staff also review employers' NAICS codes if the business is sold, becomes incorporated, or otherwise changes ownership. In this manner, Research & Planning continuously ensures that employers are assigned to the correct industry category. However, these noneconomic code changes also make it difficult for data users to make direct comparisons across years. Sometimes, large employers may move from one NAICS sector to another. For example, in Table 3 (see page 15), several employers were moved out of Administrative & Waste Services into other industries, explaining much of the employment decline in Administrative & Waste Services.

In a separate initiative to increase data quality, the Quarterly Census of

Employment and Wages unit has contacted many employers with "nonclassified" geographic codes in order to place them within appropriate counties. This data quality effort has resulted in a significant decrease in employment in the "nonclassified" geographic designation, and corresponding employment increases in many counties throughout the state (see Table 4, page 16). While the long-run result will be higher-quality data, initially some of the employment increases at the county level may simply be the result of more accurate reporting, rather than actual increases in the number of jobs in the counties. An example of this involves a large employer in the oil & gas sector that recently started reporting employment on a county, rather than a statewide basis. This has increased Mining employment in Sweetwater, Natrona, Washakie, and Uinta counties.

References

U.S. Census Bureau. (2002, September 10). *2002 NAICS Codes and Titles*. Retrieved December 18, 2003, from <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm>



Wyoming Creates 5,200 New Jobs; Unemployment Down in November

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Continuing on its path of moderate growth, the Wyoming economy created 5,200 jobs in November (2.1%). Job gains were seen across many industries, but were strongest in Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas). Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 3.8 percent in October to 3.5 percent in November and remained well below the U.S. rate of 5.4 percent.

From October to November, employment fell by 3,200 jobs or 1.2 percent. This seasonal decrease was slightly smaller than seen in previous years. Seasonal job losses occurred in Construction (-1,000 jobs or -4.7%), Professional & Business Services (-200 jobs or -1.3%), and Leisure & Hospitality (-2,100 jobs or -7.0%).

From November 2003, Wyoming gained 5,200 jobs or 2.1 percent. Increased oil & gas drilling activity continued to boost

employment in Natural Resources & Mining (2,000 jobs or 10.5%). Other notable gains were seen in Wholesale Trade (400 jobs or 5.7%), Transportation & Utilities (200 jobs or 1.7%), Financial Activities (200 jobs or 1.9%), Education & Health Services (700 jobs or 3.3%), Leisure & Hospitality (900 jobs or 3.3%), and Government (700 jobs or 1.1%). Employment remained flat in Construction, Manufacturing, Information, Professional & Business Services, and Other Services.

County unemployment rates were mixed in November. Unemployment increased from October to November in 8 counties, was unchanged in 2 counties, and decreased in 13 counties. Teton County posted the highest unemployment rate (5.7%) in November, while Sublette County (1.5%) posted the lowest. Laramie County's unemployment rate (4.5% in October) fell to 4.1 percent in November.



What's New

Wages and Benefits in Wyoming

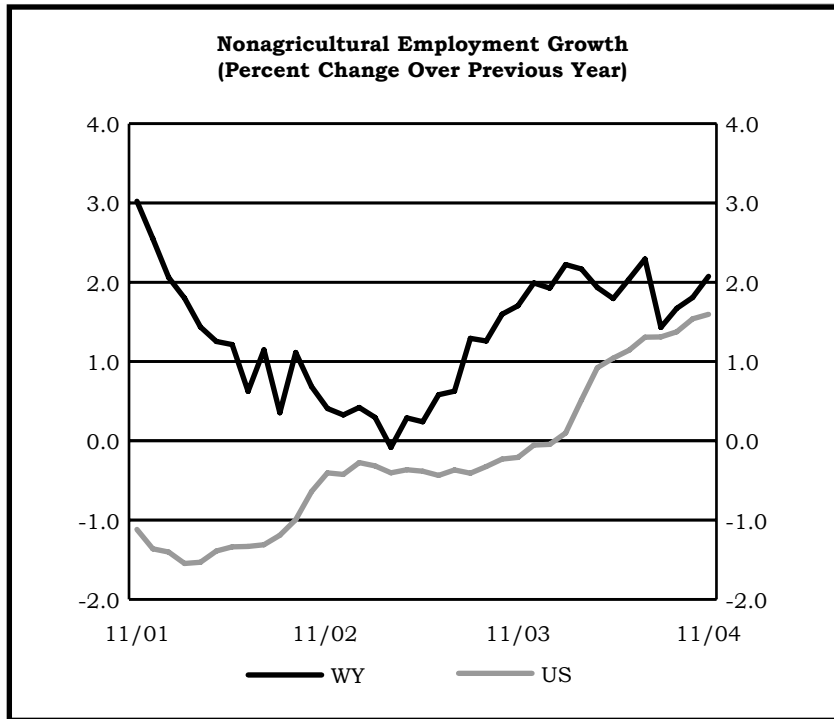
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Occasional Paper No. 2: An Analysis of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Monetary Eligibility, 1993 and 2003

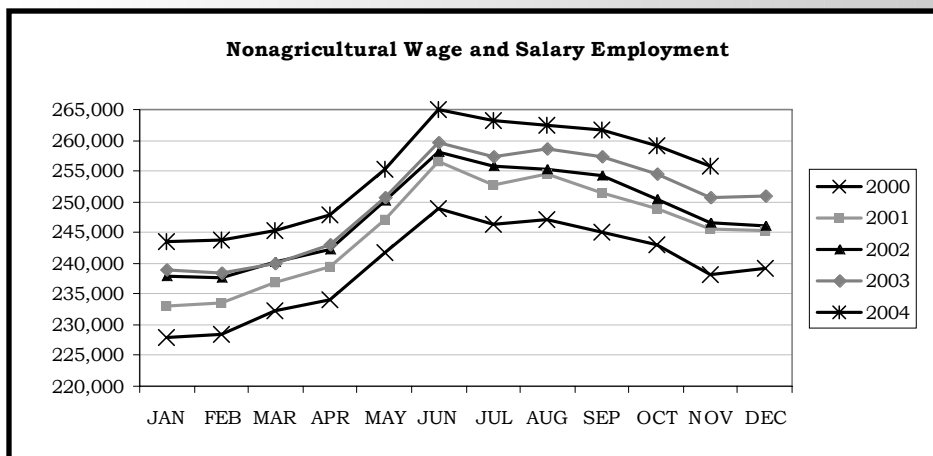
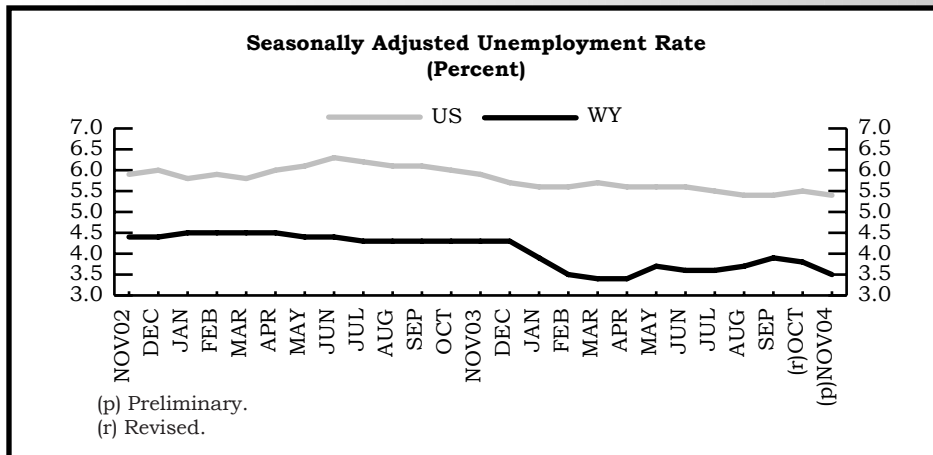
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State Unemployment Rates November 2004 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.7
District of Columbia	8.8
Alaska	7.2
Oregon	7.1
Michigan	7.0
South Carolina	6.6
Mississippi	6.5
Ohio	6.5
Illinois	6.0
Missouri	5.8
California	5.7
Louisiana	5.7
Texas	5.7
Washington	5.7
Arkansas	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.4
United States	5.4
Indiana	5.3
Alabama	5.2
Idaho	5.1
New Mexico	5.1
Colorado	5.0
North Carolina	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
New York	4.9
West Virginia	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Connecticut	4.7
Iowa	4.7
Kansas	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
Utah	4.6
Arizona	4.5
Kentucky	4.5
Maine	4.5
Oklahoma	4.5
New Jersey	4.4
Rhode Island	4.4
Florida	4.3
Georgia	4.3
Minnesota	4.2
Montana	4.2
Delaware	4.0
Maryland	3.9
Nevada	3.7
Nebraska	3.5
Wyoming	3.5
Hawaii	3.3
Virginia	3.3
North Dakota	3.2
South Dakota	3.2
New Hampshire	3.1
Vermont	3.1



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Increased oil & gas drilling activity continued to boost employment in Natural Resources & Mining (2,000 jobs or 10.5%).

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Nov04(p)	Oct04(r)	Nov03(b)	Nov04	Nov04	Oct04	Nov03	Nov04(p)	Oct04(r)	Nov03(b)	Nov04	Nov04	Oct04	Nov03
WYOMING STATEWIDE								LARAMIE COUNTY						
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	255.9	259.1	250.7	-1.2	2.1			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	40.6	41.0	40.0	-1.0	1.5	
TOTAL PRIVATE	190.3	193.3	185.8	-1.6	2.4			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.3	28.6	27.7	-1.0	2.2	
GOODS PRODUCING	50.9	51.8	48.9	-1.7	4.1			GOODS PRODUCING	4.3	4.4	4.0	-2.3	7.5	
Natural Resources & Mining	21.0	21.0	19.0	0.0	10.5			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.7	2.8	2.4	-3.6	12.5	
Mining	20.9	20.9	18.9	0.0	10.6			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.6	3.6	3.2	0.0	12.5									
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.4	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0			SERVICE PROVIDING	36.3	36.6	36.0	-0.8	0.8	
Coal Mining	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.8	8.8	8.6	0.0	2.3	
Support Activities for Mining	9.9	9.9	8.3	0.0	19.3			Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	6.5	6.6	5.7	-1.5	14.0			Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0	
Construction	20.1	21.1	20.1	-4.7	0.0			Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	
Construction of Buildings	4.2	4.2	4.4	0.0	-4.5			Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	5.8	6.1	6.0	-4.9	-3.3			Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.3	3.2	-3.0	0.0	
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.1	10.8	9.7	-6.5	4.1			Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0	
Manufacturing	9.8	9.7	9.8	1.0	0.0			Leisure & Hospitality	4.3	4.4	4.2	-2.3	2.4	
Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0	2.0			Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Non-Durable Goods	4.8	4.7	4.9	2.1	-2.0									
SERVICE PROVIDING	205.0	207.3	201.8	-1.1	1.6			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.3	12.4	12.3	-0.8	0.0	
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	49.6	49.5	48.9	0.2	1.4			Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	-3.7	
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.3	7.0	1.4	5.7			State Government	3.8	3.9	3.8	-2.6	0.0	
Merchant Whslsrs., Durable	4.3	4.2	4.0	2.4	7.5			Local Government	5.9	5.9	5.8	0.0	1.7	
Retail Trade	30.2	30.1	30.1	0.3	0.3									
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.3	4.4	4.1	-2.3	4.9			NATRONA COUNTY						
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.5	2.4	2.3	4.2	8.7			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.5	35.8	34.5	-0.8	2.9	
Food & Beverage Stores	4.8	4.7	4.9	2.1	-2.0			TOTAL PRIVATE	29.9	30.1	28.9	-0.7	3.5	
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.8	4.0	2.6	-2.5			GOODS PRODUCING	6.9	7.0	6.6	-1.4	4.5	
Gasoline Stations	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-2.4			Natural Resources & Mining	2.9	2.9	2.6	0.0	11.5	
General Merchandise Stores	5.9	5.9	6.0	0.0	-1.7			Construction	2.4	2.5	2.4	-4.0	0.0	
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.0	12.1	11.8	-0.8	1.7									
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0			SERVICE PROVIDING	28.6	28.8	27.9	-0.7	2.5	
Transportation & Warehousing	9.8	9.9	9.6	-1.0	2.1			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.2	8.0	7.8	2.5	5.1	
Truck Transportation	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9			Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8	
Information	4.2	4.1	4.2	2.4	0.0			Retail Trade	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.3	6.5	
Financial Activities	10.7	10.7	10.5	0.0	1.9			Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	
Finance & Insurance	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	1.4			Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9			Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	
Professional & Business Services	15.3	15.5	15.3	-1.3	0.0			Professional & Business Services	2.8	3.0	2.9	-6.7	-3.4	
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	7.7	7.8	7.5	-1.3	2.7			Educational & Health Services	4.7	4.7	4.4	0.0	6.8	
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0			Leisure & Hospitality	3.3	3.4	3.2	-2.9	3.1	
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr.	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0			Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	
Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	7.0	7.1	7.3	-1.4	-4.1									
Educational & Health Services	22.0	21.9	21.3	0.5	3.3			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.6	5.7	5.6	-1.8	0.0	
Educational	2.1	2.0	2.1	5.0	0.0			Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.9	19.9	19.2	0.0	3.6			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	
Ambulatory Health Care	7.6	7.6	7.1	0.0	7.0			Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0	
Offices of Physicians	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0			Local Education	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7									
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.4	4.5	4.5	-2.2	-2.2									
Social Assistance	5.1	5.0	4.9	2.0	4.1									
Leisure & Hospitality	28.1	30.2	27.2	-7.0	3.3									
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.7	2.0	-18.5	10.0									
Accommodation & Food Services	25.9	27.5	25.2	-5.8	2.8									
Accommodation	8.6	9.4	8.2	-8.5	4.9									
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.3	18.1	17.0	-4.4	1.8									
Other Services	9.5	9.6	9.5	-1.0	0.0									
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0									
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.6	65.8	64.9	-0.3	1.1									
Federal Government	7.5	7.9	7.5	-5.1	0.0									
State Government	15.6	15.5	15.3	0.6	2.0									
State Govt. Education	6.4	6.3	6.2	1.6	3.2									
Local Government	42.5	42.4	42.1	0.2	1.0									
Local Govt. Education	22.6	22.6	22.6	0.0	0.0									
Hospitals	5.7	5.7	5.5	0.0	3.6									

Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Nov04(p)	Oct04(r)	Nov03(b)	Oct04	Nov03
				Nov04	Nov04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	22.3	22.5	21.4	-0.9	4.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.4	18.6	17.7	-1.1	4.0
GOODS PRODUCING	9.0	9.1	8.5	-1.1	5.9
Natural Resources & Mining	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9
Construction	2.1	2.2	1.9	-4.5	10.5
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.3	13.4	12.9	-0.7	3.1
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.9	3.9	3.7	0.0	5.4
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.3	21.7	20.6	-1.8	3.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.0	17.4	16.4	-2.3	3.7
GOODS PRODUCING	7.1	7.4	6.6	-4.1	7.6
Natural Resources & Mining	4.1	4.1	3.7	0.0	10.8
Construction	1.8	2.1	1.7	-14.3	5.9
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.2	14.3	14.0	-0.7	1.4
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.2	2.1	-4.5	0.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	14.5	15.9	14.3	-8.8	1.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	12.3	13.6	12.2	-9.6	0.8
GOODS PRODUCING	2.1	2.2	2.3	-4.5	-8.7
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.9	2.0	2.1	-5.0	-9.5
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	12.4	13.7	12.0	-9.5	3.3
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.6	1.7	1.5	-5.9	6.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	5.1	4.0	-19.6	2.5
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.3	2.1	-4.3	4.8

State Unemployment Rates November 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.9
District of Columbia	8.7
Alaska	7.0
Oregon	6.7
Michigan	6.5
South Carolina	6.5
Ohio	6.0
Mississippi	5.9
Illinois	5.8
California	5.6
Washington	5.6
Louisiana	5.5
Missouri	5.5
Texas	5.4
Alabama	5.3
United States	5.2
Pennsylvania	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Arkansas	5.0
Colorado	5.0
New Mexico	5.0
North Carolina	5.0
Indiana	4.9
Idaho	4.8
New York	4.8
Kansas	4.6
Maine	4.5
Iowa	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Florida	4.3
West Virginia	4.3
Arizona	4.2
Connecticut	4.2
Kentucky	4.2
Massachusetts	4.2
Montana	4.2
New Jersey	4.2
Utah	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Georgia	4.1
Maryland	3.9
Minnesota	3.8
Rhode Island	3.8
Delaware	3.6
Nevada	3.5
Hawaii	3.4
Wyoming	3.3
New Hampshire	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
Vermont	3.1
Virginia	3.1
North Dakota	3.0
South Dakota	3.0

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The number of building permits issued for single family homes in Wyoming increased 55.7 percent from November 2003.

	Nov 2004 (p)	Oct 2004 (r)	Nov 2003 (b)	Percent Change	
				Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	279,065	281,583	280,470	-0.9	-0.5
Unemployed	9,307	9,468	11,504	-1.7	-19.1
Employed	269,758	272,115	268,966	-0.9	0.3
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	3.3%/3.5%	3.4%/3.8%	4.1%/4.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.2%/5.4%	5.1%/5.5%	5.6%/5.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,648,000	8,034,000	7,302,000	-4.8	4.7
As a percent of all workers	5.4%	5.7%	5.3%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	392,000	429,000	457,000	-8.6	-14.2
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,398,000	4,407,000	4,682,000	-0.2	-6.1
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,041.30	\$1,006.85	\$990.68	3.4	5.1
Average Weekly Hours	45.0	43.7	43.7	3.0	3.0
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$869.55	\$856.55	\$821.72	1.5	5.8
Average Weekly Hours	46.5	46.3	45.1	0.4	3.1
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$676.49	\$643.66	\$630.02	5.1	7.4
Average Weekly Hours	39.7	39.2	39.9	1.3	-0.5
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	665.86	662.19	665.9	0.6	0.0
Average Weekly Hours	40.8	40.7	41.2	0.2	-1.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	13,440	8,701	12,751	54.5	5.4
Benefits Paid	\$3,102,747	\$2,057,815	\$2,912,733	50.8	6.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$230.86	\$236.50	\$228.43	-2.4	1.1
State Insured Covered Jobs	232,449	236,578	228,085	-1.7	1.9
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.3%	1.0%	1.6%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	188.6	188.4	182.9	0.1	3.1
Housing	190.8	191.0	185.1	-0.1	3.1
Apparel	123.0	124.1	123.1	-0.9	-0.1
Transportation	167.2	166.4	155.7	0.5	7.4
Medical Care	314.1	313.3	300.8	0.3	4.4
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	108.7	108.7	107.8	0.0	0.8
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	112.7	112.5	110.8	0.2	1.7
Other Goods & Services	307.0	306.8	300.0	0.1	2.3
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	151.3	149.8	138.9	1.0	8.9
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	211	233	154	-9.4	37.0
Valuation	\$29,020,000	\$33,367,000	\$21,121,000	-13.0	37.4
Single Family Homes	179	194	115	-7.7	55.7
Valuation	\$26,637,000	\$30,503,000	\$18,966,000	-12.7	40.4
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	73	82	63	-11.0	15.9

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Senior Economist

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.8 percent in October to 3.5 percent in November.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Nov 2004 (p)	Oct 2004 (r)	Nov 2003 (b)	Nov 2004 (p)	Oct 2004 (r)	Nov 2003 (b)	Nov 2004 (p)	Oct 2004 (r)	Nov 2003 (b)	Nov 2004 (p)	Oct 2004 (r)	Nov 2003 (b)
NORTHWEST	46,834	47,980	47,302	45,077	46,235	45,048	1,757	1,745	2,254	3.8	3.6	4.8
Big Horn	5,943	6,103	5,909	5,726	5,878	5,690	217	225	219	3.7	3.7	3.7
Fremont	18,710	18,906	19,077	17,909	18,070	17,971	801	836	1,106	4.3	4.4	5.8
Hot Springs	2,178	2,206	2,276	2,135	2,156	2,202	43	50	74	2.0	2.3	3.3
Park	15,365	16,066	15,388	14,804	15,582	14,674	561	484	714	3.7	3.0	4.6
Washakie	4,638	4,699	4,652	4,503	4,549	4,511	135	150	141	2.9	3.2	3.0
NORTHEAST	48,613	48,974	48,414	47,268	47,599	46,749	1,345	1,375	1,665	2.8	2.8	3.4
Campbell	23,282	23,324	23,067	22,653	22,647	22,316	629	677	751	2.7	2.9	3.3
Crook	3,068	3,161	3,028	2,967	3,047	2,894	101	114	134	3.3	3.6	4.4
Johnson	4,135	4,283	4,064	4,050	4,210	3,956	85	73	108	2.1	1.7	2.7
Sheridan	14,911	14,939	15,002	14,478	14,528	14,431	433	411	571	2.9	2.8	3.8
Weston	3,217	3,267	3,253	3,120	3,167	3,152	97	100	101	3.0	3.1	3.1
SOUTHWEST	55,625	56,524	55,457	53,677	54,707	52,989	1,948	1,817	2,468	3.5	3.2	4.5
Lincoln	7,770	7,896	7,567	7,478	7,612	7,205	292	284	362	3.8	3.6	4.8
Sublette	4,014	4,184	3,837	3,952	4,118	3,731	62	66	106	1.5	1.6	2.8
Sweetwater	21,252	21,281	21,192	20,701	20,645	20,411	551	636	781	2.6	3.0	3.7
Teton	11,080	11,643	11,198	10,451	11,239	10,511	629	404	687	5.7	3.5	6.1
Uinta	11,509	11,520	11,663	11,095	11,093	11,131	414	427	532	3.6	3.7	4.6
SOUTHEAST	76,648	76,423	77,148	74,056	73,681	74,471	2,592	2,742	2,677	3.4	3.6	3.5
Albany	20,200	19,871	20,574	19,879	19,542	20,180	321	329	394	1.6	1.7	1.9
Goshen	6,470	6,557	6,406	6,277	6,359	6,238	193	198	168	3.0	3.0	2.6
Laramie	44,464	44,299	44,655	42,624	42,288	42,828	1,840	2,011	1,827	4.1	4.5	4.1
Niobrara	1,185	1,242	1,158	1,152	1,217	1,112	33	25	46	2.8	2.0	4.0
Platte	4,329	4,454	4,355	4,124	4,275	4,113	205	179	242	4.7	4.0	5.6
CENTRAL	51,343	51,679	52,150	49,679	49,891	49,710	1,664	1,788	2,440	3.2	3.5	4.7
Carbon	7,811	8,057	8,155	7,581	7,789	7,703	230	268	452	2.9	3.3	5.5
Converse	6,505	6,634	6,563	6,259	6,398	6,275	246	236	288	3.8	3.6	4.4
Natrona	37,027	36,988	37,432	35,839	35,704	35,732	1,188	1,284	1,700	3.2	3.5	4.5
STATEWIDE	279,065	281,583	280,470	269,758	272,115	268,966	9,307	9,468	11,504	3.3	3.4	4.1
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.5	3.8	4.3
U.S.....										5.2	5.1	5.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.4	5.5	5.9

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 12/04.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

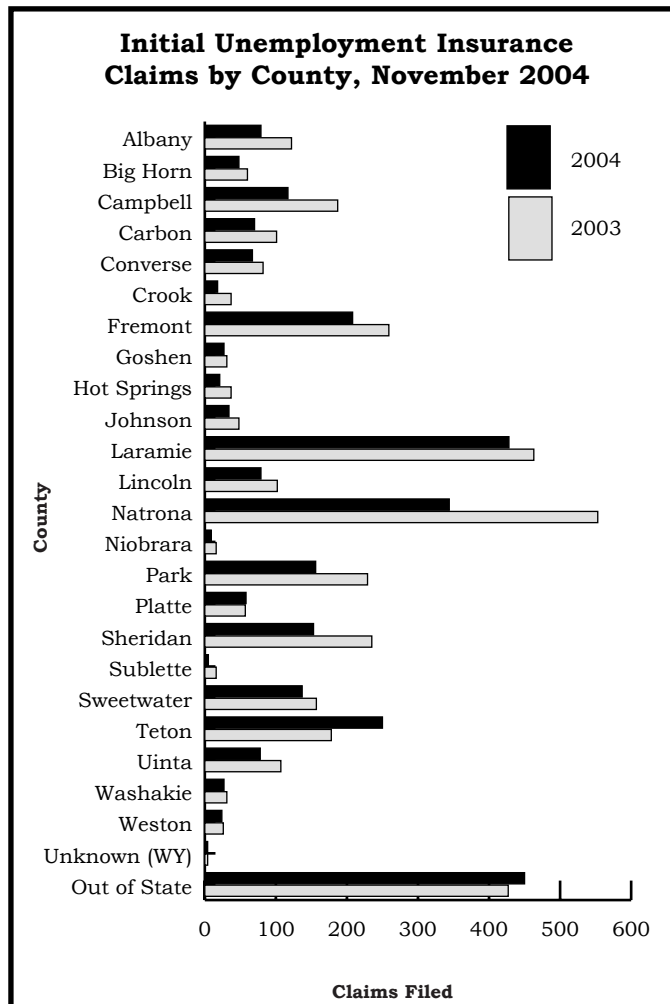
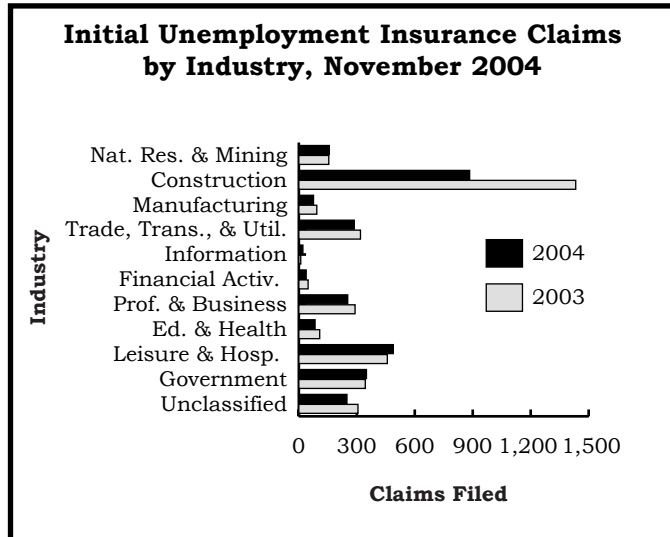
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent.

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

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

The over-the-year percentage decline (-18.9%) in initial claims was the largest since November 1999.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	Nov04	Oct04	Nov03	Nov04
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,889	2,500	3,564	15.6 -18.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,118	702	1,681	59.3 -33.5
Natural Resources and Mining	158	128	155	23.4 1.9
Mining	122	103	131	18.4 -6.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	16	10	17	60.0 -5.9
Construction	884	468	1,433	88.9 -38.3
Manufacturing	76	106	93	-28.3 -18.3
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,211	1,345	1,272	-10.0 -4.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	287	243	319	18.1 -10.0
Wholesale Trade	44	37	44	18.9 0.0
Retail Trade	176	140	183	25.7 -3.8
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	67	66	92	1.5 -27.2
Information	21	28	10	-25.0 110.0
Financial Activities	38	36	48	5.6 -20.8
Professional & Business Serv.	253	216	291	17.1 -13.1
Educational & Health Services	84	90	108	-6.7 -22.2
Leisure & Hospitality	489	702	458	-30.3 6.8
Other Services	39	30	38	30.0 2.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	350	272	344	28.7 1.7
Federal Government	251	174	199	44.3 26.1
State Government	21	25	34	-16.0 -38.2
Local Government	78	73	111	6.8 -29.7
Local Education	11	17	18	-35.3 -38.9
UNCLASSIFIED	210	181	267	16.0 -21.3

LARAMIE COUNTY

	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	424	284	461	49.3	-8.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	247	81	262	204.9	-5.7
Construction	224	67	248	234.3	-9.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	137	159	154	-13.8	-11.0
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	36	38	41	-5.3	-12.2
Financial Activities	7	15	4	-53.3	75.0
Professional & Business Serv.	51	54	49	-5.6	4.1
Educational & Health Services	16	16	18	0.0	-11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	19	23	24	-17.4	-20.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	27	31	27	-12.9	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	13	13	18	0.0	-27.8

NATRONA COUNTY

	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	343	242	552	41.7	-37.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	179	93	356	92.5	-49.7
Construction	143	66	325	116.7	-56.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	136	122	155	11.5	-12.3
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	41	47	61	-12.8	-32.8
Financial Activities	6	5	6	20.0	0.0
Professional & Business Serv.	38	32	43	18.8	-11.6
Educational & Health Services	11	15	18	-26.7	-38.9
Leisure & Hospitality	29	18	22	61.1	31.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17	12	22	41.7	-22.7
UNCLASSIFIED	11	15	19	-26.7	-42.1

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

Claims in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities, Education & Health Services, and Local and State Government saw double-digit declines over the year, while Information claims more than doubled.

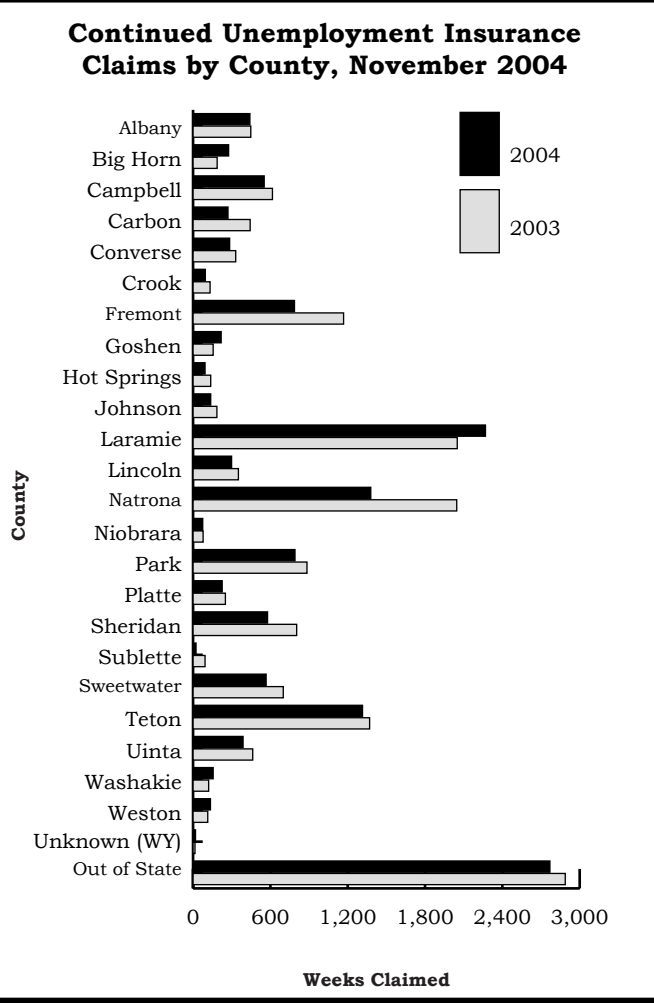
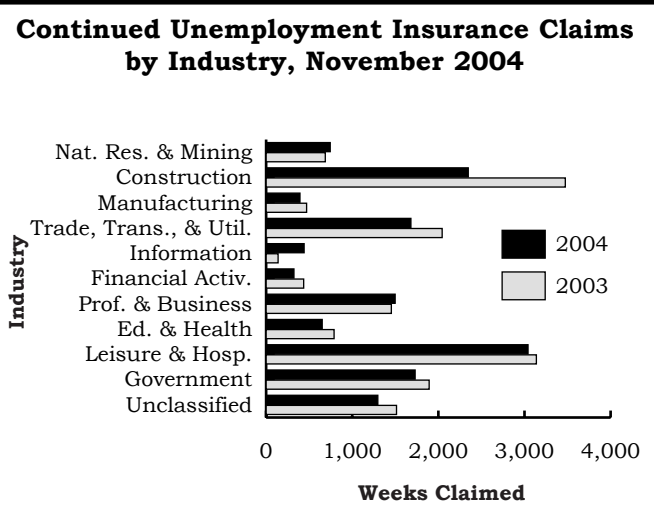
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Percent Change Claims Filed			
	Nov04	Oct04	Nov03	Nov04
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	14,146	10,437	16,038	35.5 -11.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	4,535	3,476	5,271	30.5 14.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3,484	2,752	4,631	26.6 -24.8
Natural Resources and Mining	744	626	687	18.8 8.3
Mining	536	479	564	11.9 -5.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	67	48	65	39.6 3.1
Construction	2,347	1,801	3,474	30.3 -32.4
Manufacturing	393	325	470	20.9 -16.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	7,898	5,728	8,273	37.9 -4.5
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	1,681	1,408	2,044	19.4 -17.8
Wholesale Trade	303	259	383	17.0 -20.9
Retail Trade	958	813	1,093	17.8 -12.4
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	420	336	568	25.0 -26.1
Information	441	438	139	0.7 217.3
Financial Activities	323	304	436	6.3 -25.9
Professional & Business Serv.	1,498	1,253	1,454	19.6 3.0
Educational & Health Serv.	651	678	789	-4.0 -17.5
Leisure & Hospitality	3,041	1,410	3,138	115.7 -3.1
Other Services	263	237	273	11.0 -3.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,730	1,079	1,893	60.3 -8.6
Federal Government	942	394	849	139.1 11.0
State Government	231	186	257	24.2 -10.1
Local Government	557	499	787	11.6 -29.2
Local Education	142	132	189	7.6 -24.9
UNCLASSIFIED	1,034	878	1,241	17.8 -16.7

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,268	2,197	2,052	3.2 10.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	706	691	672	2.2 5.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	439	364	614	20.6 -28.5
Construction	367	278	532	32.0 -31.0
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,508	1,525	1,056	-1.1 42.8
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	369	345	332	7.0 11.1
Financial Activities	107	106	79	0.9 35.4
Professional & Business Serv.	488	528	238	-7.6 105.0
Educational & Health Services	126	132	161	-4.5 -21.7
Leisure & Hospitality	102	93	143	9.7 -28.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	261	246	291	6.1 -10.3
UNCLASSIFIED	60	62	91	-3.2 -34.1

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,378	1,132	2,046	21.7 -32.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	447	373	736	19.8 -39.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	429	337	839	27.3 -48.9
Construction	294	238	648	23.5 -54.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	804	701	1,011	14.7 -20.5
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	259	184	325	40.8 -20.3
Financial Activities	67	57	87	17.5 -23.0
Professional & Business Serv.	240	222	258	8.1 -7.0
Educational & Health Services	89	106	156	-16.0 -42.9
Leisure & Hospitality	103	86	114	19.8 -9.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	85	57	132	49.1 -35.6
UNCLASSIFIED	60	37	64	62.2 -6.3



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