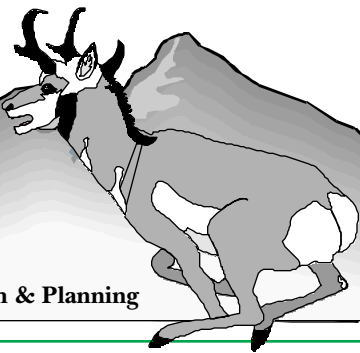


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Update: New Business Formation in Wyoming

by: Xiaohong (Sherry) Yu

"Less than half (43.7%) of the new firms survived after the first three critical years. New firms are associated with disproportionately higher UI claims than other established businesses."

Too often in today's economy new businesses are merged, sold, or go out of business soon after they are born. Owners have to face not only local or domestic competition but also international competition. It has been two years since the last new

business study, "A Study of Wyoming's New Business Formation" (refer to the April 1997 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*). How have new businesses fared in Wyoming during the past two years? What proportion of them are still part of the state's industry

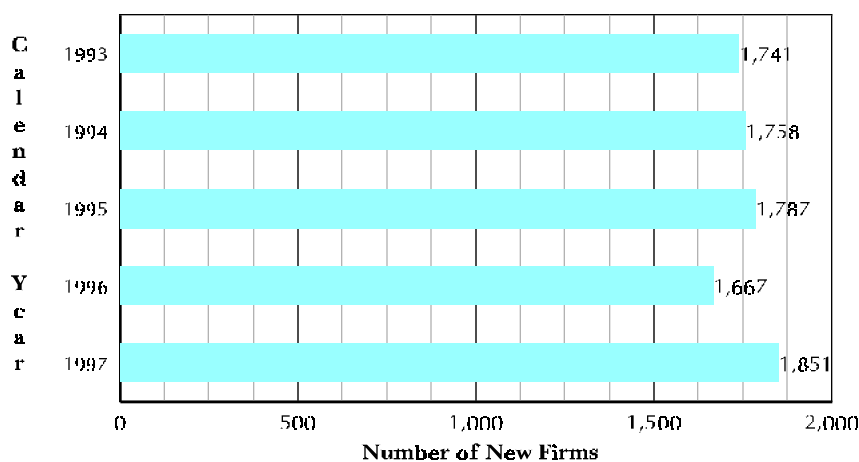
base? What significant differences characterize current business formation compared with previous studies? This article will answer those questions.

Development of New Business¹

During the past five years, Wyoming had an increasing number of new firms starting their businesses each year, from 1,741 firms in 1993 to 1,851 firms in 1997, except in 1996 with only 1,667 (see Figure 1). The industry distribution of new firms (see Figure 2, page 3) was quite consistent over the years. Using 1997 data as an example, most (70.5%) new firms opened business in Services (36.0%), Construction (19.2%) and Retail Trade (14.8%). Very few started business in Agriculture (2.8%), Mining (3.7%) and Manufacturing (3.7%) industries. Figure 3 (see

(Continued on page 2)

**Figure 1: Total Number of New Firms by Calendar Year
1993 - 1997**



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page 4) shows the historical data by quarter. More employers started their businesses in the second or third quarter of the year, but there was no significant start-up preference on specific quarters for most of the industries (see details in Table 1, page 3).

On average, new firms added 1,180 new jobs and 5.4 million dollars in wages in the quarter in which they started their businesses. These numbers directly affect the employment and wage statistics of the state. Figure 3 shows that from the third quarter of 1996 the starting quarter's wages for new businesses reflected a continuously higher growth rate--averaging 49.8 percent on the over-the-year same quarter comparison--than the employment growth rate which averaged 20.5 percent. This large growth brought the starting quarter's average weekly wage up from \$325 in 1995 to \$432 in 1997, a 32.9 percent increase. What caused it? Does it mean the structure of the new firms or the new jobs changed over time? Further study needs to be done in order to give a complete explanation.

New Firms and Employment by Region and County

The Southwest and Southeast have been the fastest growth regions in the state for the past five years. Each had over 21 percent of new firms every year. The Northeast was the slowest developing area, with only 15 percent of new firms. More firms tend to locate in the counties with large cities or towns (high population areas). Laramie, Natrona and Teton Counties attracted the largest number of new firms each year (see Table 2, page 4). In 1997, for example, 254, 209 and 188 new firms opened for business in these three counties, respectively.

Statewide, over 6,500 job opportunities² were created by new firms each year (see Table 2). This number rose to 7,474 in 1996 and 7,833 in 1997. The geographic distribution of these new jobs is consistent with the new firms' distribution. Laramie County had more than 1,000 new jobs added by new firms each year. Natrona and Campbell Counties each had more than 800 new jobs in 1997, and Teton had 651.

Starting Business Size by Industry

Most (about 84% each year) new firms hired only five or fewer employees during their first two quarters of business operation (see Table 3, page 5). Some of them (about 4% of the total) only hired temporary workers³. These employers' average quarterly employment was zero for both beginning quarters, but their wage data showed that they paid somebody some time during the quarter. Only three percent or less started with 21 or more employees. The majority of these were in Retail Trade, Services and Construction industries. Wholesale Trade and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) industries had the highest percentage (over 90%) of small-sized new firms (five or fewer employees).

Business Survival and Layoffs

On average, 1,761 new firms opened their businesses in Wyoming each year and created an average of 7,141 new jobs annually.

(Continued on page 4)

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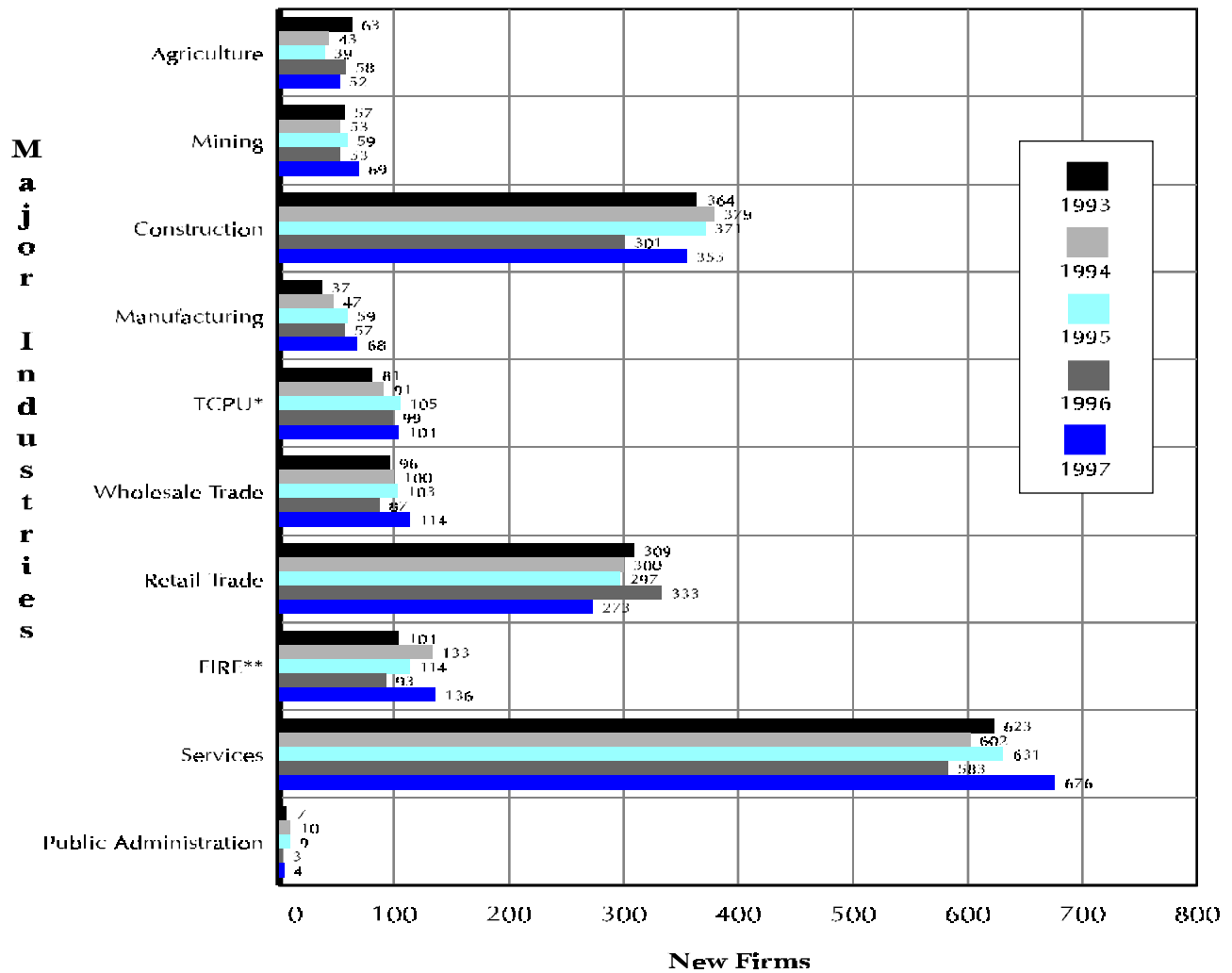
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Figure 2: New Firms by Industry and Calendar Year
1993 - 1997



* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 1: New Business Formation by Quarter and Major Industry for 1993 to 1997

	Starting Up Time								Total Number of New Firms
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		
	Number of New Firms	Row %	Number of New Firms	Row %	Number of New Firms	Row %	Number of New Firms	Row %	
Agriculture	63	24.7	78	30.6	64	25.1	50	19.6	255
Mining	64	22.0	88	30.2	69	23.7	70	24.1	291
Construction	272	15.4	626	35.4	506	28.6	366	20.7	1,770
Manufacturing	52	19.4	70	26.1	75	28.0	71	26.5	268
TCPU*	111	23.1	122	25.4	123	25.6	124	25.8	480
Wholesale Trade	150	30.0	121	24.2	122	24.4	107	21.4	500
Retail Trade	310	20.5	426	28.2	419	27.7	357	23.6	1,512
FIRE**	180	31.0	135	23.3	131	22.6	134	23.1	580
Services	816	26.2	787	25.3	770	24.7	742	23.8	3,115
Public Administration	12	36.4	8	24.2	7	21.2	6	18.2	33
Total	2,030	23.1	2,461	28.0	2,286	26.0	2,027	23.0	8,804

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

How are they doing over time? What are the survival rates? Which industry's firms had the best luck in Wyoming? How many jobs were still attached to these firms? What proportion of layoffs were from them? How does their job loss rate compare with other firms?

By definition, firms which still report wages to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) division on their first anniversary in business are considered a one year survival. A similar concept applies to each year's survival analysis. An important point to remember is that the business survival rate in this

(Continued on page 5)

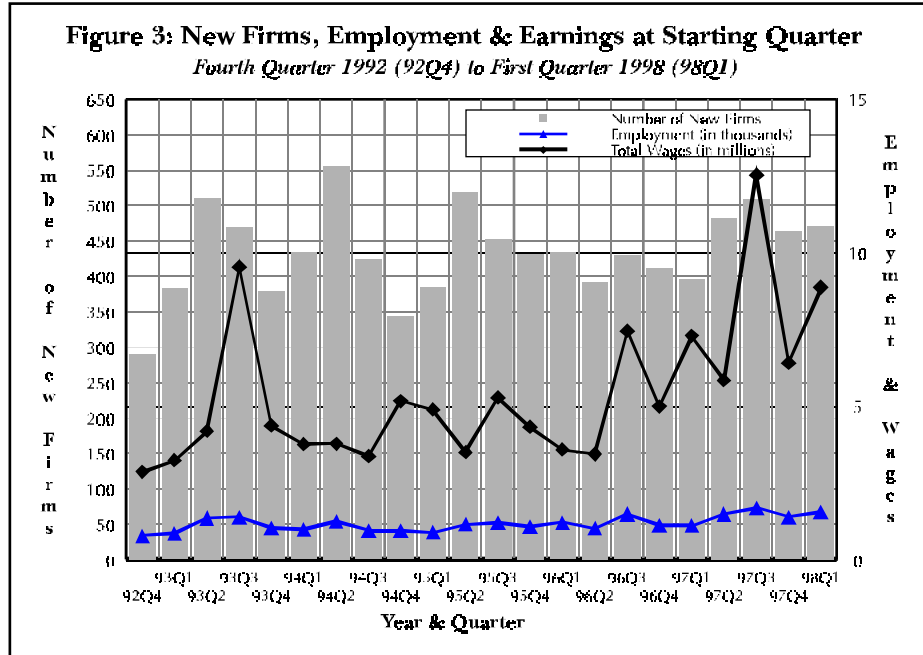


Table 2: New Firms and Employment* by Region and County for 1993 to 1997

	Start up in 1993			Start up in 1994			Start up in 1995			Start up in 1996			Start up in 1997		
	New Firms	Percent	Starting Employment Level	New Firms	Percent	Starting Employment Level	New Firms	Percent	Starting Employment Level	New Firms	Percent	Starting Employment Level	New Firms	Percent	Starting Employment Level
Northwest	299	17.2%	838	321	18.3%	1,123	282	15.8%	987	289	17.3%	1,373	338	18.3%	1,193
Big Horn	21		56	22		110	35		174	30		119	29		121
Fremont	118		314	139		410	107		409	111		443	127		408
Hot Springs	21		82	13		68	19		54	11		313	17		34
Park	112		287	112		405	92		266	101		425	129		371
Washakie	27		99	35		130	29		84	36		73	36		259
Northeast	267	15.3%	1,042	265	15.1%	933	289	16.2%	1,086	223	13.4%	800	278	15.0%	1,430
Campbell	95		337	109		521	131		531	82		332	106		853
Crook	23		73	15		26	17		36	13		38	16		96
Johnson	31		115	29		79	29		84	37		116	33		145
Sheridan	103		450	104		284	94		395	79		285	108		307
Weston	15		67	8		23	18		40	12		29	15		29
Southwest	445	25.6%	1,731	419	23.8%	1,636	439	24.6%	1,670	363	21.8%	1,788	405	21.9%	1,611
Lincoln	46		241	38		137	64		243	47		429	46		184
Sublette	34		102	33		143	33		71	22		50	24		63
Sweetwater	119		415	114		619	112		610	81		395	95		490
Teton	186		691	164		441	163		421	160		603	188		651
Uinta	60		282	70		296	67		325	53		311	52		223
Southeast	370	21.3%	1,737	412	23.4%	1,683	423	23.7%	1,573	426	25.6%	1,884	412	22.3%	1,673
Albany	90		502	97		425	96		319	97		494	90		283
Goshen	43		114	30		58	33		76	36		113	29		58
Laramie	208		1035	247		1020	246		1035	249		1118	254		1178
Niobrara	9		23	15		116	15		26	9		35	8		15
Platte	20		63	23		64	33		117	35		124	31		139
Central	301	17.3%	1,350	313	17.8%	1,198	313	17.5%	1,017	287	17.2%	914	300	16.2%	1,036
Carbon	44		289	48		243	47		244	61		271	45		89
Converse	34		75	31		128	48		171	28		103	46		135
Natrona	223		986	234		827	218		602	198		540	209		812
Multi-county	2	0.1%	171	4	0.2%	163	5	0.3%	147	8	0.5%	261	4	0.2%	332
Unclassified**	57	3.3%	133	24	1.4%	68	36	2.0%	110	71	4.3%	454	114	6.2%	558
Statewide	1,741	100.0%	7,002	1,758	100.0%	6,804	1,787	100.0%	6,590	1,667	100.0%	7,474	1,851	100.0%	7,833

* Employment is the "Starting Employment Level," which is the highest average quarterly employment during the first two starting quarters.

** "Unclassified" includes all of the records that lack county information.

Table 3: New Firms by Industry and Starting Employment Level* for 1993 to 1997

	New Firms Starting up in 1993						New Firms Starting up in 1994						New Firms Starting up in 1995					
	Temp Hiring	1-5	Percent	6-20	21 +	Total	Temp Hiring	1-5	Percent	6-20	21 +	Total	Temp Hiring	1-5	Percent	6-20	21 +	Total
Agriculture	4	43	74.6%	15	1	63	1	35	83.7%	6	1	43	2	24	66.7%	13		39
Mining	1	45	80.7%	6	5	57	2	44	86.8%	5	2	53	3	48	86.4%	7	1	59
Construction	26	285	85.4%	45	8	364	17	292	81.5%	59	11	379	21	303	87.3%	38	9	371
Manufacturing	2	29	83.8%	5	1	37	2	36	80.9%	7	2	47	4	45	83.1%	9	1	59
TCPU**	5	60	80.2%	13	3	81	4	73	84.6%	11	3	91	5	88	88.6%	11	1	105
Wholesale Trade	2	91	96.9%	3		96	5	87	92.0%	7	1	100	4	91	92.2%	7	1	103
Retail Trade	6	209	69.6%	72	22	309	11	205	72.0%	63	21	300	6	215	74.4%	52	24	297
FIRE***	6	92	94.2%	6		104	9	120	97.0%	3	1	133	6	102	94.7%	5	1	114
Services	29	526	89.1%	59	9	623	16	520	89.0%	59	7	602	30	540	90.3%	50	11	631
Public Administration		4	57.1%	3		7	1	3	40.0%	4	2	10		7	77.8%	2		9
Total	81	1,384		227	49	1,741	68	1,415		224	51	1,758	81	1,463		194	49	1,787
Total Percent	4.7%	79.5%	84.2%	13.0%	2.8%	100.0%	3.9%	80.5%	84.4%	12.7%	2.9%	100.0%	4.5%	81.9%	86.4%	10.9%	2.7%	100.0%

	New Firms Starting up in 1996						New Firms Starting up in 1997					
	Temp Hiring	1-5	Percent	6-20	21 +	Total	Temp Hiring	1-5	Percent	6-20	21 +	Total
Agriculture		46	79.3%	12		58	2	34	69.2%	16		52
Mining	2	45	88.7%	5	1	53	4	57	88.4%	5	3	69
Construction	17	232	82.7%	37	15	301	20	279	84.2%	48	8	355
Manufacturing	1	48	86.0%	7	1	57	3	55	85.3%	9	1	68
TCPU**	4	85	89.9%	7	3	99	4	84	84.6%	16		104
Wholesale Trade	3	76	90.8%	6	2	87	5	103	94.7%	6		114
Retail Trade	7	211	65.5%	88	27	333	5	181	68.1%	69	18	273
FIRE***	3	84	93.5%	6		93	6	120	92.6%	6	4	136
Services	24	507	91.1%	48	4	583	29	564	87.7%	73	10	676
Public Administration		2	66.7%		1	3		3	75.0%	1		4
Total	61	1,336		216	54	1,667	78	1,480		249	44	1,851
Total Percent	3.7%	80.1%	83.8%	13.0%	3.2%	100.0%	4.2%	80.0%	84.2%	13.5%	2.4%	100.0%

* "Starting Employment Level" is the highest average quarterly employment during the first two starting quarters.

** Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

*** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 4: Survival Rates for Firms Continuously Owned by the Same Person(s) by Industry

	After One Year in Business			After Two Years in Business			After Three Years in Business			After Four Years in Business			After Five Years in Business		
	Firms	Survivals	Survival Rate	Firms	Survivals	Survival Rate	Firms	Survivals	Survival Rate	Firms	Survivals	Survival Rate	Firms	Survivals	Survival Rate
Agriculture	225	158	70.2%	173	108	62.4%	128	65	50.8%	82	43	52.4%	32	19	59.4%
Mining	253	180	71.1%	192	108	56.3%	140	63	45.0%	82	30	36.6%	30	9	30.0%
Construction	1,527	819	53.6%	1,228	495	40.3%	854	275	32.2%	478	127	26.6%	96	15	15.6%
Manufacturing	215	141	65.6%	162	93	57.4%	108	47	43.5%	52	17	32.7%	19	1	5.3%
TCPU*	423	293	69.3%	320	183	57.2%	214	101	47.2%	118	53	44.9%	42	14	33.3%
Wholesale Trade	426	291	68.3%	353	188	53.3%	241	113	46.9%	149	65	43.6%	48	19	39.6%
Retail Trade	1,339	955	71.3%	1,043	563	54.0%	714	316	44.3%	424	151	35.6%	98	31	31.6%
FIRE**	494	363	73.5%	399	246	61.7%	286	153	53.5%	157	83	52.9%	55	34	61.8%
Services	2,706	1,854	68.5%	2,111	1,128	53.4%	1,468	669	45.6%	909	366	40.3%	250	93	37.2%
Public Administration	31	30	96.8%	29	29	100.0%	21	21	100.0%	13	12	92.3%	2	2	100.0%
Total	7,639	5,084	66.6%	6,010	3,141	52.3%	4,174	1,823	43.7%	2,464	947	38.4%	672	237	35.3%

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

study applies only to firms owned continuously by the same owner(s). Some firms may still operate but have changed owners. For simplicity, these kinds of firms were not included in the current study since too many different and complex situations could occur. For example, several firms could merge into one big firm, or one firm could split into several different smaller firms. A business could be bought and sold several times, or it could be temporarily out of business for a

couple of quarters before an ownership transfer is settled. However, a quick check was conducted. Out of 9,721 firms in the study database, 4,909 firms were "inactive"--reporting no employment and wages to UI in the first quarter of 1998. This may mean that a firm has gone out of business, had its ownership transferred, temporarily stopped operation for the season, etc. Matching these "inactive" firms with the most recently available Quarterly

Unemployment Insurance (QUI) reports (the first quarter of 1998), 9.6 percent (469) of them were found to have transferred ownership. The other 90.4 percent (4,440) of them are still "inactive." This result indicates that the survival analysis in this study closely represents all new firms' survival situation.

In the study database, 7,639

(Continued on page 6)

Figure 4: New Business Survival Rates for Continuous Owners
by Employment Size and Survival Years

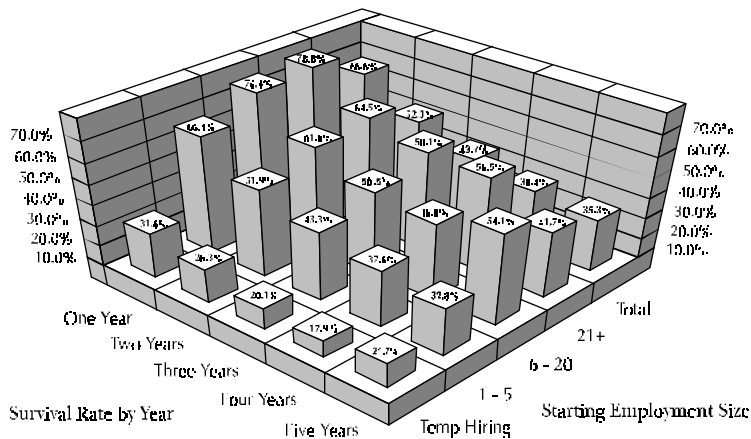


Table 5: Total Layoffs* and Layoffs from New Firms for the 12 months ending June 30, 1998

	Total Layoffs	Layoffs from New Firms	Percent of Total
Agriculture	250	39	15.6%
Mining	1,573	311	19.8%
Construction	5,020	1,015	20.2%
Manufacturing	1,114	129	11.6%
TCPU**	771	147	19.1%
Wholesale Trade	370	82	22.2%
Retail Trade	2,252	434	19.3%
FIRE***	264	47	17.8%
Services	3,647	485	13.3%
Public Administration	432	5	1.2%
Nonclassified	977	0	0.0%
Total	16,670	2,694	16.2%

* "Layoffs" are the sum of Unemployment Insurance (UI) initial claims and additional claims, and represents the number of jobs lost.

** Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

*** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

firms had their first anniversary in business, 6,010 had two years, 4,174 had three years, 2,464 had four years and only 672 had a fifth birthday. Survival rates diminish as the years pass, 66.6 percent of the firms survived after one year in business, but only 35.3 percent were still active on their fifth anniversary (see Table 4, page 5). Firms in Public Administration had the best luck, almost everybody survived over the years. FIRE is second best and Agriculture is third with 61.8 percent and 59.4 percent of the firms surviving respectively after five years in business. Manufacturing and Construction had the least luck with only 5.3 percent and 15.6 percent of firms continuing their businesses after five years, respectively. Figure 4 shows survival rates by starting employment size. Larger sized firms had a much better chance to survive than smaller sized firms on all five anniversaries. Firms using only temporary workers had the lowest survival rates for all of the years compared with other firms. This result should not be surprising since large firms require more capital investment and more planning to justify it. They also usually have larger volumes of business and more diversified products or services than

the small firms, making them more competitive.

During the 12 months ending June 30, 1998, a total of 16,670 layoffs occurred in Wyoming which showed up as UI initial and additional claims (see Table 5). The new firms in this study were responsible for 16.2 percent (2,694) of them. This share varied among industries. Wholesale Trade and Construction had higher percentages than others. Over all, 16 percent seems relatively low. However, if compared with the average employment level for the corresponding time period, these new firms--which had five years or less experience in business--had a much higher job loss rate⁴ (11.9%) than the firms who were in business longer (the rate was 7.2%). Job loss rate indicates the probability of being laid off in a specific time period. In other words, about 12 of every 100 employees in the new firms would likely lose their jobs during the year while only seven of them would have the same experience if they worked in other more established firms. This difference indicates that the new firms are not as stable as the older firms; lack of business experience may be one of the main reasons.

Summary

In the past five years, Wyoming had an increasing number of new firms each year, from 1,741 firms in 1993 to 1,851 firms in 1997, except in 1996 with only 1,667 new firms. Most (over 70.5%) of them were in Services (36.0%), Construction (19.2%) and Retail Trade (14.8%) industries. The majority (about 84%) of them started at a small size (five or fewer employees). Less than half of them (43.7%) survived after the first three critical years. Firms in Public Administration, FIRE and Agriculture had a better chance at survival over the years. Large firms also had much higher survival rates than small firms. New firms are associated with disproportionately higher UI claims than other established businesses.

Xiaohong (Sherry) Yu is a Senior Economist, specializing in UI Trust Fund projections.

1 New business data source and definition: the current research relies on a database containing an additional eight quarters (1996 Q2 - 1998 Q1) of new business

(Continued on page 9)

Covered Employment and Wages for Second Quarter 1998

Source: ES-202 Report Run Date: November 1998 Prepared: 12/18/98 by Nancy Brennan Text by: Gayle C. Edlin

"Statewide, total payroll increased 5.7 percent from second quarter 1997 to 1998 and the average weekly wage increased by \$16 ..."

Wyoming's employment typically increases during the second quarter of the year (see Table 1). Levels in 1998 have risen from a low of 209,546 in February (historically the month of lowest employment in Wyoming) to 231,349 in June (generally the month of highest employment). When the monthly levels of 1997 are compared to those of 1998, employment has been 3,000 to 5,000 higher this year than last. In fact, average monthly employment for second quarter 1998 was 4,797 higher than in 1997 (see Table 2). This 2.2 percent increase was nearly double that which occurred from second quarter 1996 to 1997 (1.2%; refer to the January 1998 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*).

Of the twelve major industries, only State and Federal Government saw decreases in average monthly employment from second quarter 1997 to 1998 (see Table 2). State Government was down 98 workers (-0.8%) and Federal Government barely registered a decrease with 11 fewer workers (-0.2%). The largest numeric gain in workers from second quarter 1997 to 1998 occurred in the Services industry (1,733 workers), followed by an increase in the Construction industry (1,216). Since the Construction industry is only about one-third the size of the Services industry in Wyoming, its gain was more impressive in terms of percent change (8.0% versus 3.7%). Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE), one of Wyoming's smallest industries, saw a 5.7 percent increase in employment, even

Table 1: Wyoming Monthly Employment for 1998 by Industry

	1998 Monthly Employment					
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total	210,045	209,546	210,840	214,782	224,758	231,349
Total Private	156,756	156,062	156,923	160,366	169,150	177,428
Agriculture	2,470	2,486	2,689	3,205	3,631	3,864
Mining	17,418	17,057	16,890	16,487	16,812	17,171
Construction	13,143	12,927	13,258	14,656	17,254	17,596
Manufacturing	10,620	10,593	10,431	10,569	10,717	11,025
TCPU*	10,715	10,808	10,769	10,860	11,032	11,218
Wholesale Trade	7,607	7,657	7,754	7,790	7,908	7,963
Retail Trade	42,376	42,080	42,281	43,037	45,412	47,346
Fire**	8,253	8,258	8,356	8,415	8,566	8,712
Services	44,154	44,196	44,495	45,347	47,818	52,533
Total Government	53,289	53,484	53,917	54,416	55,608	53,921
State Government	11,525	11,453	11,461	11,543	11,718	11,635
Local Government	35,116	35,462	35,871	36,189	36,739	34,679
Federal Government	6,648	6,569	6,585	6,684	7,151	7,607

(Continued on page 8)

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Second Quarter 1998 by Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent
Total	223,630	218,832	4,797	2.2%	\$1,352,400,808	\$1,279,281,196	\$73,119,612	5.7%	\$465	\$450	\$16	3.4%
Total Private	168,981	164,514	4,468	2.7%	\$980,025,584	\$919,349,084	\$60,676,500	6.6%	\$446	\$430	\$16	3.8%
Agriculture	3,567	3,497	69	2.0	13,869,719	12,821,022	1,048,697	8.2	299	282	17	6.1
Mining	16,823	16,512	311	1.9	195,770,263	188,339,610	7,430,653	3.9	895	877	18	2.0
Construction	16,502	15,286	1,216	8.0	107,966,132	94,706,044	13,260,088	14.0	503	477	27	5.6
Manufacturing	10,770	10,573	198	1.9	84,176,555	80,442,449	3,734,106	4.6	601	585	16	2.7
TCPU*	11,037	10,952	85	0.8	92,468,206	89,198,467	3,269,739	3.7	644	626	18	2.9
Wholesale Trade	7,887	7,772	115	1.5	58,531,183	55,062,495	3,468,688	6.3	571	545	26	4.7
Retail Trade	45,265	44,985	280	0.6	148,043,276	140,320,477	7,722,799	5.5	252	240	12	4.9
Fire**	8,564	8,103	461	5.7	58,336,165	52,826,642	5,509,523	10.4	524	501	22	4.5
Services	48,566	46,833	1,733	3.7	220,864,085	205,631,878	15,232,207	7.4	350	338	12	3.6
Total Government	54,648	54,319	330	0.6%	\$372,375,224	\$359,932,112	\$12,443,112	3.5%	\$524	\$510	\$14	2.8%
State Government	11,632	11,730	-98	-0.8	82,418,331	79,451,494	2,966,837	3.7	545	521	24	4.6
Local Government	35,869	35,430	439	1.2	225,067,950	218,260,962	6,806,988	3.1	483	474	9	1.9
Federal Government	7,147	7,159	-11	-0.2	64,888,943	62,219,656	2,669,287	4.3	698	669	30	4.5

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

though the 461 workers this industry gained was only a fraction of the numeric gains in the Services and Construction industries.

The Services industry also had the largest numeric gain in total payroll from second quarter 1997 to 1998 (\$15,232,207), with Construction a close second (\$13,260,088). However, due again to the relative sizes of the different industries, Construction saw the largest percent change in total payroll (14.0%), followed by FIRE (10.4%), Agriculture (8.2%) and Services (7.4%). Average weekly wages improved by \$30, \$27 and \$26 for workers in the Federal Government, Construction

and Wholesale Trade industries, respectively, though Agriculture's \$17 gain represented the largest percent change in wages (6.1%).

Statewide, total payroll increased 5.7 percent from second quarter 1997 to 1998 and the average weekly wage increased by \$16 (see Table 3). Total payroll improved from the 4.9 percent increase that occurred from second quarter 1996 to 1997 and the average weekly wage gained exactly the same amount (refer to the January 1998 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*).

Only four of Wyoming's counties saw decreases in average monthly

employment from second quarter 1997 to 1998. The largest numeric decline occurred in Carbon County (-119 workers), followed by Lincoln County (-89 workers), Crook County (-32 workers) and Johnson County (-1 worker). Each of these decreases represented a very small percent change in employment (less than 2%). Two counties had numeric increases in average monthly employment of more than 500; Natrona County gained 735 workers and Sweetwater County was up 685 workers from second quarter 1997 to 1998.

Six counties (Hot Springs, Park,

(Continued on page 9)

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Second Quarter 1998 by Region and County

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change		Second Quarter		Change	
	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent	1998	1997	No.	Percent
Total	223,630	218,832	4,797	2.2%	\$1,352,400,808	\$1,279,281,196	\$73,119,612	5.7%	\$465	\$450	\$16	3.4%
Northwest	35,149	34,760	389	1.1%	\$187,119,775	\$183,028,595	\$4,091,180	2.2%	\$410	\$405	\$4	1.1%
Big Horn	3,958	3,827	131	3.4	22,490,471	21,239,459	1,251,012	5.9	437	427	10	2.4
Fremont	13,396	13,374	22	0.2	72,812,544	69,995,807	2,816,737	4.0	418	403	16	3.9
Hot Springs	2,038	2,022	15	0.8	8,777,656	9,356,619	-578,963	-6.2	331	356	-25	-6.9
Park	12,005	11,823	182	1.5	61,470,742	61,544,548	-73,806	-0.1	394	400	-7	-1.6
Washakie	3,752	3,713	39	1.1	21,568,362	20,892,162	676,200	3.2	442	433	9	2.2
Northeast	34,328	33,623	705	2.1%	\$219,807,940	\$209,251,386	\$10,556,554	5.0%	\$493	\$479	\$14	2.9%
Campbell	16,931	16,431	500	3.0	129,785,332	120,511,118	9,274,214	7.7	590	564	25	4.5
Crook	1,893	1,925	-32	-1.7	10,047,407	10,759,624	-712,217	-6.6	408	430	-22	-5.0
Johnson	2,612	2,613	-1	-0.0	12,234,680	12,068,741	165,939	1.4	360	355	5	1.4
Sheridan	10,722	10,542	181	1.7	56,202,516	54,138,806	2,063,710	3.8	403	395	8	2.1
Weston	2,169	2,112	57	2.7	11,538,005	11,773,097	-235,092	-2.0	409	429	-20	-4.6
Southwest	49,487	48,183	1,304	2.7%	\$323,491,950	\$304,168,482	\$19,323,468	6.4%	\$503	\$486	\$17	3.5%
Lincoln	4,827	4,916	-89	-1.8	29,909,062	29,793,099	115,963	0.4	477	466	10	2.2
Sublette	2,087	2,074	13	0.6	10,803,282	11,136,564	-333,282	-3.0	398	413	-15	-3.6
Sweetwater	19,863	19,178	685	3.6	157,972,043	148,557,472	9,414,571	6.3	612	596	16	2.7
Teton	14,514	14,070	445	3.2	76,925,858	70,076,382	6,849,476	9.8	408	383	25	6.4
Uinta	8,196	7,946	250	3.1	47,881,705	44,604,965	3,276,740	7.3	449	432	18	4.1
Southeast	56,944	56,198	745	1.3%	\$327,644,608	\$305,458,594	\$22,186,014	7.3%	\$443	\$418	\$24	5.9%
Albany	13,730	13,602	128	0.9	75,328,272	71,730,456	3,597,816	5.0	422	406	16	4.0
Goshen	4,086	4,078	9	0.2	18,964,395	18,332,712	631,683	3.4	357	346	11	3.2
Laramie	34,900	34,433	467	1.4	208,592,864	192,536,617	16,056,247	8.3	460	430	30	6.9
Niobrara	827	794	33	4.2	3,804,876	3,604,208	200,668	5.6	354	349	5	1.4
Platte	3,401	3,292	108	3.3	20,954,201	19,254,601	1,699,600	8.8	474	450	24	5.4
Central	40,906	40,287	619	1.5%	\$250,444,183	\$241,163,805	\$9,280,378	3.8%	\$471	\$460	\$10	2.3%
Carbon	6,371	6,490	-119	-1.8	36,175,233	37,386,626	-1,211,393	-3.2	437	443	-6	-1.4
Converse	4,209	4,206	3	0.1	26,742,490	26,088,898	653,592	2.5	489	477	12	2.4
Natrona	30,326	29,591	735	2.5	187,526,460	177,688,281	9,838,179	5.5	476	462	14	3.0
Nonclassified	6,816	5,782	1,034	17.9%	\$43,892,352	\$36,210,334	\$7,682,018	21.2%	\$495	\$482	\$14	2.8%

Crook, Weston, Sublette and Carbon) had lower total payrolls in second quarter 1998 than 1997. The largest numeric declines occurred in Carbon and Crook Counties (-\$1,211,393 and -\$712,217, respectively). The largest percent decreases occurred in Crook and Hot Springs Counties (-6.6% and -6.2%, respectively). These same six counties had lower average weekly wages in second quarter 1998 than 1997. The largest numeric decreases occurred in Hot Springs and Crook Counties (-\$25 and -\$22, respectively); these two counties had the largest percent declines in average weekly wage as well.

The largest increases in total payroll from second quarter 1997 to 1998 occurred in the two most populous counties, Laramie and Natrona, which increased \$16,056,247 and \$9,838,179, respectively. However, Teton and Platte Counties took the highest honors in terms of percent change in total payroll, up 9.8% and 8.8%, respectively. The greatest gains in average weekly wage were made in Laramie County (up \$30 from second quarter 1997 to 1998), with Campbell and Teton Counties coming in second (up \$25 each). In the case of average weekly wage, percent increases followed numeric increases in the top two spots; Laramie County saw increases in average weekly wage of 6.9 percent and Teton County's wages were up 6.4 percent.

Gayle C. Edlin is an Economist and Editor of Wyoming Labor Force Trends.

She recently returned to work at Research & Planning after the birth of her daughter.



("New Business Formation" -- Continued from page 6)

information since the last study. The database includes a total of 22 quarters (1992 Q4 - 1998 Q1) and 9,721 new-firms records. It is generated by matching two major data sources: new business Unemployment Insurance registrations and the employer Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (QUI) reports. An important point to remember is that there are extensive edits and updates on each quarter's QUI data before it can be used in other statistics or be part of the national statistics according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) requirement, but the same updating will not affect the new registration database. As a result, some fields (such as county code and SIC code) are changed on the QUI and may not be consistent with the new registration, so some records will not be matched. In order to avoid losing records, some unnecessary matching criteria such as county codes were taken out this time. This adjustment results in the historical data of new firms for each quarter in the current study being slightly higher than the previous studies, since they include some records that have been missed before.

As mentioned in the previous articles, new businesses in this study are the real new and active ones. The new branches of existing firms or the new firms based on the ownership transfer of the old firms are not included. The new registered firms who never showed up in the QUI with effective employment or wage records are not included in this study since they are not considered active firms. Some employers may have changed their minds on when to start their businesses or if they are indeed going to start a business after the initial registration with the

Employment Resource Division.

2 The employment number we used here and later on is different from the number in Figure 3 (see page 3). In Figure 3, the employment is the average quarterly employment at the business starting quarter, which is consistent with the calculation of total UI covered employment statistics. The purpose of those numbers is to show how big of an impact the new businesses had on quarterly UI covered employment and wage statistics. The following employment number is defined as the "real" beginning level of employment, which is the highest average quarterly employment during the first two quarters. Many new firms started their businesses in the second or third month of the quarter. The actual starting quarter's average employment cannot reflect the actual beginning hiring level. For example, if a firm opened its door in the last month of the quarter and hired ten people, the average employment for this quarter would be only three (total quarterly employment divided by three months) instead of ten. Using "real" beginning level of employment gives every firm an equal chance to show their actual beginning hiring level.

3 According to BLS requirements, firms only need to report their employment for the week which includes the 12th of the month. As a result, if a firm only uses temporary workers in a week other than the reporting week, its employment would be reported as zero.

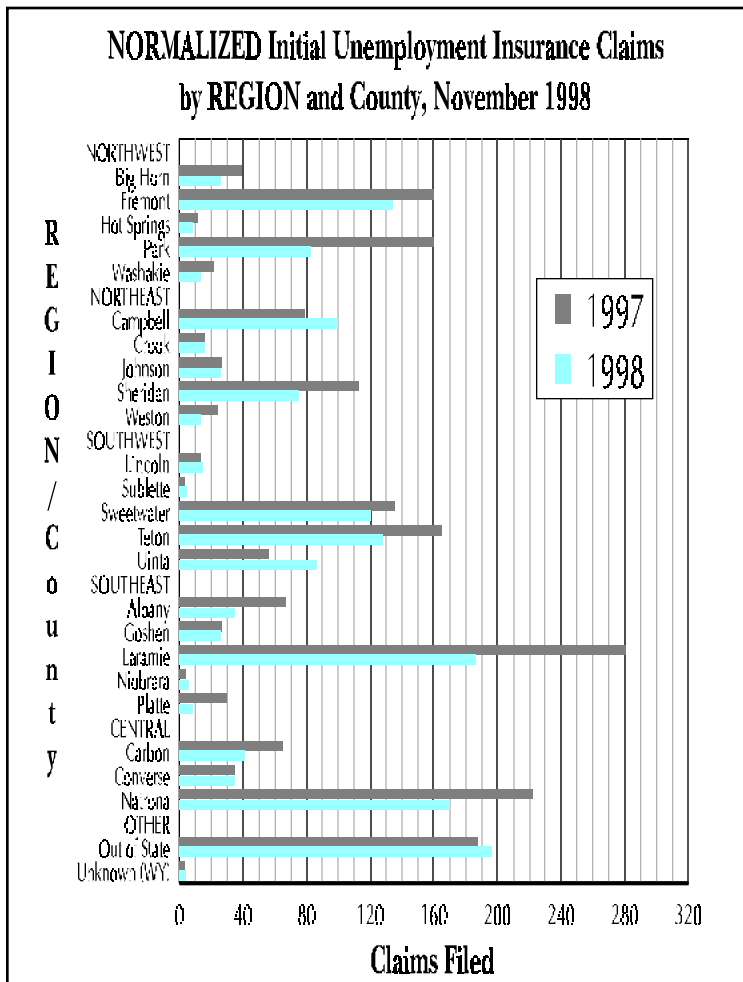
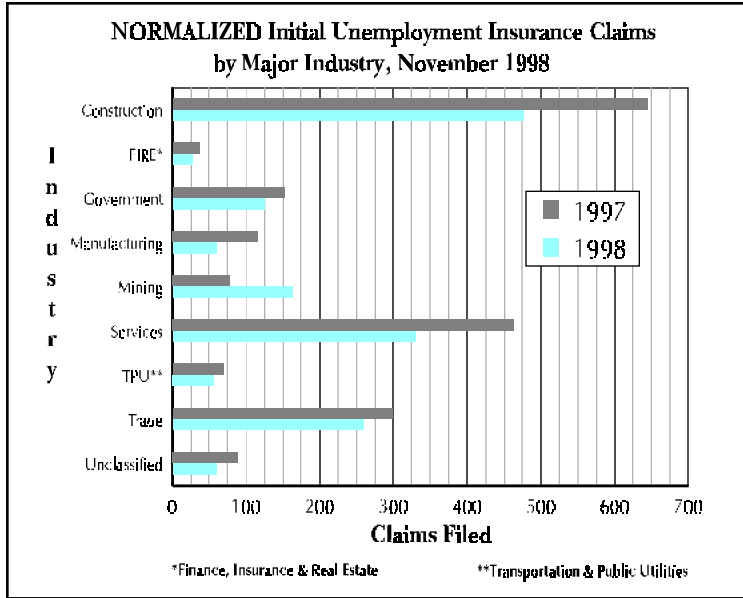
4 Job loss rate equals total layoffs during the year divided by average UI covered employment for the year.



Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

Data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle

"While Wyoming's total initial claims filed decreased over the year (down 20.2% from November 1997 to 1998), initial claims filed in the Mining industry increased yet again (up 106.3%)."



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	NOV 98	OCT 98	NOV 97	OCT 98	NOV 97
	NOV 98	OCT 98	NOV 97	NOV 98	NOV 97
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,556	910	1,950	71.0	-20.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	699	361	840	93.6	-16.8
Manufacturing	60	48	116	25.0	-48.3
Mining	163	108	79	50.9	106.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	135	97	70	39.2	92.9
Construction	476	205	645	132.2	-26.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	797	506	1,020	57.5	-21.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	56	26	70	115.4	-20.0
Transportation	52	24	54	116.7	-3.7
Communications & Public Utilities	4	2	16	100.0	-75.0
Trade	259	174	298	48.9	-13.1
Wholesale Trade	22	25	31	-12.0	-29.0
Retail Trade	237	149	266	59.1	-10.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	27	17	36	58.8	-25.0
Services	329	223	463	47.5	-28.9
Personal & Business Services	78	50	104	56.0	-25.0
Health Services	19	28	30	-32.1	-36.7
Government	126	66	153	90.9	-17.6
Local Government	42	25	60	68.0	-30.0
Local Education	9	6	15	50.0	-40.0
UNCLASSIFIED	60	43	90	39.5	-33.3

LARAMIE COUNTY					
	NOV 98	OCT 98	NOV 97	OCT 98	NOV 97
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	186	81	281	129.6	-33.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	89	23	165	287.0	-46.1
Manufacturing	8	3	16	166.7	-50.0
Mining	0	3	1	-100.0	-100.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	0	3	1	-100.0	-100.0
Construction	81	17	148	376.5	-45.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	86	45	107	91.1	-19.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	14	6	9	133.3	55.6
Transportation	13	6	6	116.7	116.7
Communications & Public Utilities	1	0	2	N/A	-50.0
Trade	31	4	32	675.0	-3.1
Wholesale Trade	0	0	2	N/A	-100.0
Retail Trade	31	4	30	675.0	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4	1	9	300.0	-55.6
Services	29	28	38	3.6	-23.7
Personal & Business Services	6	14	19	-57.1	-68.4
Health Services	3	3	1	0.0	200.0
Government	8	6	19	33.3	-57.9
Local Government	3	4	9	-25.0	-66.7
Local Education	0	0	1	N/A	-100.0
UNCLASSIFIED	11	13	9	-15.4	22.2

NATRONA COUNTY					
	NOV 98	OCT 98	NOV 97	OCT 98	NOV 97
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	169	158	222	7.0	-23.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	94	57	94	64.9	0.0
Manufacturing	13	4	6	225.0	116.7
Mining	23	22	15	4.5	53.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	16	22	12	-27.3	33.3
Construction	58	31	73	87.1	-20.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	71	95	117	-25.3	-39.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	3	1	8	200.0	-62.5
Transportation	2	1	3	100.0	-33.3
Communications & Public Utilities	1	0	4	N/A	-75.0
Trade	27	56	39	-51.8	-30.8
Wholesale Trade	4	5	8	-20.0	-50.0
Retail Trade	23	51	31	-54.9	-25.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4	6	5	-33.3	-20.0
Services	28	28	54	0.0	-48.1
Personal & Business Services	10	5	14	100.0	-28.6
Health Services	5	8	14	-37.5	-64.3
Government	9	4	11	125.0	-18.2
Local Government	6	1	9	500.0	-33.3
Local Education	2	0	1	N/A	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	4	6	11	-33.3	-63.6

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

Data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle

"Total unique claimants decreased for the 22nd consecutive time in over-the-year comparisons (down 2.9% from November 1997 to 1998). Total weeks claimed decreased over the same time period also (-8.0%)."

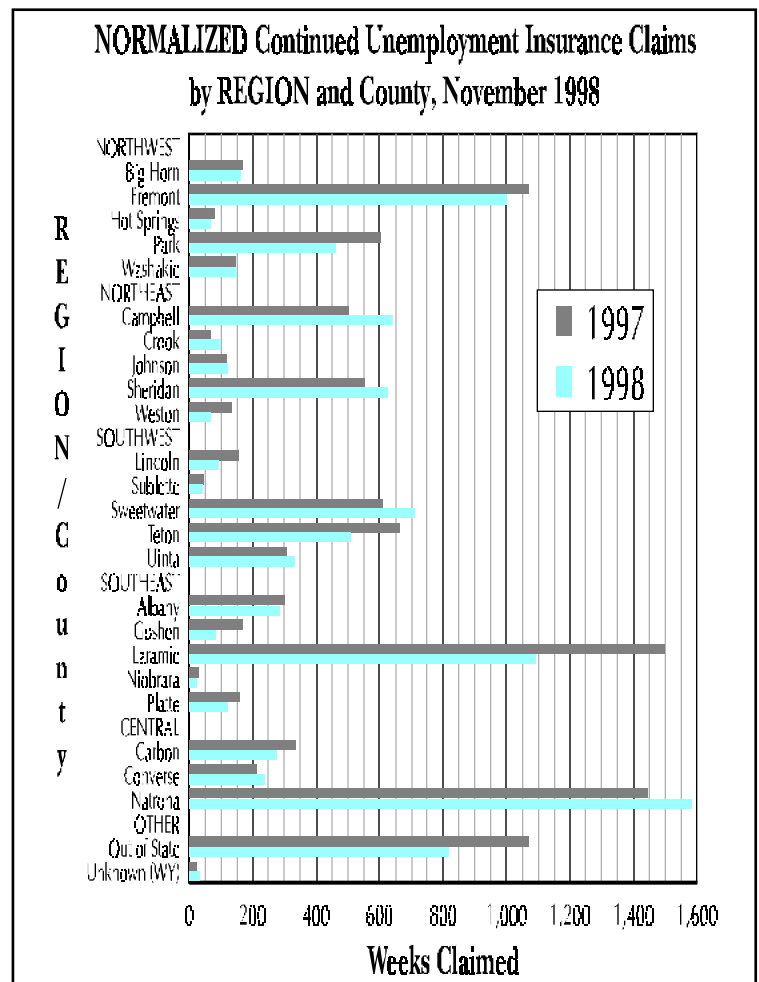
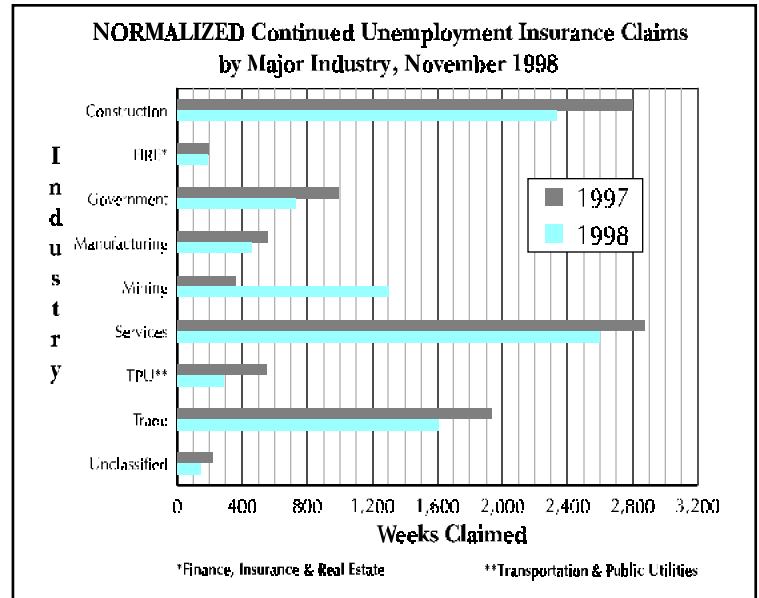
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	NOV 98	OCT 98	NOV 97	NOV 98	NOV 97
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	9,665	6,096	10,503	58.5	-8.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	3,398	2,127	3,501	59.8	-2.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4,101	2,443	3,732	67.9	9.9
Manufacturing	457	337	560	35.6	-18.4
Mining	1,304	952	363	37.0	259.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,137	842	300	35.0	279.0
Construction	2,340	1,154	2,809	102.8	-16.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	5,416	3,546	6,552	52.7	-17.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	291	214	551	36.0	-47.2
Transportation	231	168	356	37.5	-35.1
Communications & Public Utilities	61	47	195	29.8	-68.7
Trade	1,604	994	1,934	61.4	-17.1
Wholesale Trade	303	237	280	27.8	8.2
Retail Trade	1,301	757	1,654	71.9	-21.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	188	160	195	17.5	-3.6
Services	2,602	1,694	2,882	53.6	-9.7
Personal & Business Services	685	447	742	53.2	-7.7
Health Services	291	317	247	-8.2	17.8
Government	731	484	990	51.0	-26.2
Local Government	363	286	534	26.9	-32.0
Local Education	131	133	175	-1.5	-25.1
UNCLASSIFIED	148	107	219	38.3	-32.4

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,095	655	1,500	67.2	-27.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	386	226	519	70.8	-25.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	493	211	734	133.6	-32.8
Manufacturing	42	24	49	75.0	-14.3
Mining	22	15	2	46.7	1,000.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	22	15	2	46.7	1,000.0
Construction	429	172	683	149.4	-37.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	578	438	757	32.0	-23.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	43	40	104	7.5	-58.7
Transportation	32	31	68	3.2	-52.9
Communications & Public Utilities	11	9	36	22.2	-69.4
Trade	137	113	241	21.2	-43.2
Wholesale Trade	26	22	37	18.2	-29.7
Retail Trade	111	91	205	22.0	-45.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	38	38	35	0.0	8.6
Services	273	193	267	41.5	2.2
Personal & Business Services	131	70	119	87.1	10.1
Health Services	38	49	27	-22.4	40.7
Government	87	54	110	61.1	-20.9
Local Government	39	22	52	77.3	-25.0
Local Education	9	11	27	-18.2	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	24	6	9	300.0	166.7

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,584	1,266	1,447	25.1	9.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	524	421	469	24.5	11.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	647	447	541	44.7	19.6
Manufacturing	67	58	70	15.5	-4.3
Mining	264	249	90	6.0	193.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	228	220	70	3.6	225.7
Construction	316	140	381	125.7	-17.1
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	920	808	884	13.9	4.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	28	31	74	-9.7	-62.2
Transportation	25	21	25	19.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	3	11	49	-72.7	-93.9
Trade	342	268	255	27.6	34.1
Wholesale Trade	90	80	52	12.5	73.1
Retail Trade	252	188	204	34.0	23.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	43	36	32	19.4	34.4
Services	402	385	435	4.4	-7.6
Personal & Business Services	119	110	163	8.2	-27.0
Health Services	83	83	70	0.0	18.6
Government	105	88	88	19.3	19.3
Local Government	66	75	60	-12.0	10.0
Local Education	27	37	9	-27.0	200.0
UNCLASSIFIED	17	11	22	54.5	-22.7

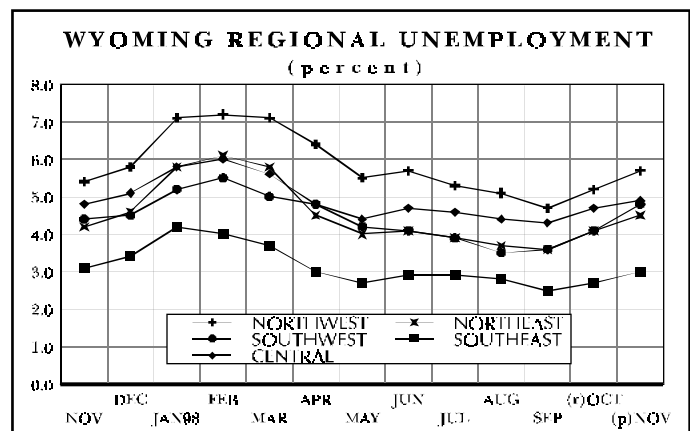
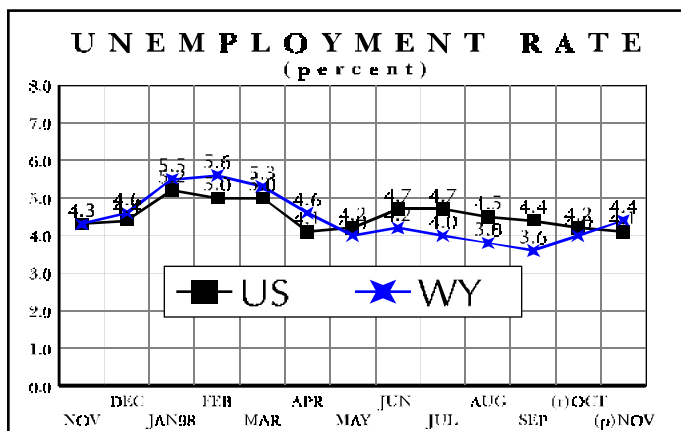


Wyoming Economic Indicators

"Wyoming's labor force increased by 5,337 persons from November 1997 to 1998. There were 697 more unemployed persons and 4,640 employed during this time."

	November 1998 ----- (p)-----	October 1998 ----- (r)-----	November 1997 ----- (b)-----	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force(1)	257,696	259,352	252,359	-0.6	2.1
Unemployed	11,458	10,379	10,761	10.4	6.5
Employed	246,238	248,973	241,598	-1.1	1.9
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.4%/4.8%	4.0%/4.8%	4.3%/4.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.1%/4.4%	4.2%/4.6%	4.3%/4.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,307,000	8,234,000	8,156,000	0.9	1.9
As a percent of all workers	6.3%	6.2%	6.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	310,000	333,000	331,000	-6.9	-6.3
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,159,000	3,086,000	3,768,000	2.4	-16.2
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$858.29	\$855.72	\$841.19	0.3	2.0
Average Weekly Hours	45.8	45.3	46.5	0.7	-3.3
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$761.61	\$750.73	\$748.30	1.4	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	43.8	45.6	0.7	-3.3
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$621.30	\$624.34	\$598.04	-0.5	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	41.2	40.7	40.6	1.2	1.5
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$572.98	\$567.33	\$569.14	1.0	0.7
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	41.9	42.6	0.5	-1.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated(2)	9,040	6,298	8,156	43.5	10.8
Benefits Paid	\$1,583,126	\$1,110,098	\$1,343,078	42.6	17.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$175.12	\$176.26	\$164.67	-0.6	6.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	205,252	209,733	203,564	-2.1	0.8
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.3%	0.9%	1.2%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	164.0	164.0	161.5	0.0	1.5
Food & Beverages	162.5	162.4	158.9	0.1	2.3
Housing	161.3	161.4	157.7	-0.1	2.3
Apparel	135.0	135.6	134.7	-0.4	0.2
Transportation	141.5	141.3	143.9	0.1	-1.7
Medical Care	244.7	244.3	236.4	0.2	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	101.3	101.1	100.0	0.2	1.3
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	101.0	101.0	100.0	0.0	1.0
Other Goods & Services	240.5	241.3	229.9	-0.3	4.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	123.5	124.0	127.9	-0.4	-3.4

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.
 (1) Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates. (2) Not Normalized.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

Data produced by: David Bullard

"Wyoming's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 4.4 percent for November 1998. Albany County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state (1.8%) and Fremont County had the highest (7.7%)."

REGION COUNTY	<u>Labor Force</u>			<u>Employed</u>			<u>Unemployed</u>			<u>Unemployment Rates</u>		
	Nov 1998 (p)	Oct 1998 (r)	Nov 1997 (b)	Nov 1998 (p)	Oct 1998 (r)	Nov 1997 (b)	Nov 1998 (p)	Oct 1998 (r)	Nov 1997 (b)	Nov 1998 (p)	Oct 1998 (r)	Nov 1997 (b)
Northwest	44,704	45,247	44,158	42,140	42,915	41,790	2,564	2,332	2,368	5.7	5.2	5.4
Big Horn	6,265	6,129	5,818	5,939	5,839	5,565	326	290	253	5.2	4.7	4.3
Fremont	16,732	16,547	16,931	15,452	15,415	15,767	1,280	1,132	1,164	7.7	6.8	6.9
Hot Springs	2,629	2,643	2,665	2,548	2,564	2,574	81	79	91	3.1	3.0	3.4
Park	14,445	15,285	14,072	13,818	14,691	13,420	627	594	652	4.3	3.9	4.6
Washakie	4,633	4,643	4,672	4,383	4,406	4,464	250	237	208	5.4	5.1	4.5
Northeast	43,209	43,334	42,181	41,246	41,577	40,405	1,963	1,757	1,776	4.5	4.1	4.2
Campbell	19,340	19,222	18,807	18,459	18,409	18,026	881	813	781	4.6	4.2	4.2
Crook	3,022	2,956	2,921	2,880	2,835	2,806	142	121	115	4.7	4.1	3.9
Johnson	3,968	4,106	3,792	3,821	4,000	3,653	147	106	139	3.7	2.6	3.7
Sheridan	13,849	14,035	13,562	13,186	13,439	12,960	663	596	602	4.8	4.2	4.4
Weston	3,030	3,015	3,099	2,900	2,894	2,960	130	121	139	4.3	4.0	4.5
Southwest	50,139	51,806	49,463	47,755	49,696	47,293	2,384	2,110	2,170	4.8	4.1	4.4
Lincoln	6,765	6,852	6,634	6,479	6,533	6,323	286	319	311	4.2	4.7	4.7
Sublette	3,241	3,381	3,093	3,168	3,299	3,031	73	82	62	2.3	2.4	2.0
Sweetwater	20,527	20,615	20,370	19,486	19,610	19,512	1,041	1,005	858	5.1	4.9	4.2
Teton	9,208	10,644	8,851	8,772	10,462	8,433	436	182	418	4.7	1.7	4.7
Uinta	10,398	10,314	10,515	9,850	9,792	9,994	548	522	521	5.3	5.1	5.0
Southeast	70,274	69,651	68,746	68,166	67,805	66,581	2,108	1,846	2,165	3.0	2.7	3.1
Albany	17,702	17,681	17,540	17,379	17,415	17,263	323	266	277	1.8	1.5	1.6
Goshen	7,243	6,991	6,834	6,998	6,783	6,581	245	208	253	3.4	3.0	3.7
Laramie	39,818	39,597	39,006	38,520	38,431	37,567	1,298	1,166	1,439	3.3	2.9	3.7
Niobrara	1,182	1,160	1,181	1,143	1,123	1,155	39	37	26	3.3	3.2	2.2
Platte	4,329	4,222	4,185	4,126	4,053	4,015	203	169	170	4.7	4.0	4.1
Central	49,369	49,311	47,812	46,930	46,978	45,530	2,439	2,333	2,282	4.9	4.7	4.8
Carbon	8,116	8,229	8,122	7,741	7,883	7,754	375	346	368	4.6	4.2	4.5
Converse	7,138	6,907	6,781	6,773	6,614	6,478	365	293	303	5.1	4.2	4.5
Natrona	34,115	34,175	32,909	32,416	32,481	31,298	1,699	1,694	1,611	5.0	5.0	4.9
Statewide	257,696	259,352	252,359	246,238	248,973	241,598	11,458	10,379	10,761	4.4	4.0	4.3
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.8	4.8	4.6
U.S.....										4.1	4.2	4.3
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.4	4.6	4.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/98. Run Date 12/98.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The 1997 annual average unemployment rate for Wyoming was estimated at 5.1 percent. A 90 percent confidence interval around this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases the actual rate would fall between 4.5 and 5.7 percent.

State Unemployment Rates November News

November 1998
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

by: David Bullard

"This is the first time in several months that Wyoming's [unemployment] rate has been above the U.S. ..."

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.5
District of Columbia	8.3
West Virginia	6.0
New Mexico	5.9
Hawaii	5.7
Montana	5.6
California	5.5
Alaska	5.4
Oregon	5.4
New York	5.1
Washington	4.9
Louisiana	4.8
Arkansas	4.6
Idaho	4.5
Texas	4.5
Rhode Island	4.4
Wyoming	4.4
Florida	4.3
Maine	4.3
Pennsylvania	4.3
Maryland	4.2
New Jersey	4.2
Illinois	4.1
Mississippi	4.1
United States	4.1
Alabama	4.0
Kentucky	4.0
Ohio	4.0
Oklahoma	3.9
Georgia	3.8
Tennessee	3.7
Arizona	3.6
Kansas	3.6
Connecticut	3.4
South Carolina	3.4
Missouri	3.3
Nevada	3.3
Colorado	3.2
Delaware	3.2
North Carolina	3.2
Michigan	3.1
Wisconsin	3.1
New Hampshire	3.0
Utah	2.9
Vermont	2.9
Virginia	2.8
Indiana	2.7
Massachusetts	2.6
South Dakota	2.5
Iowa	2.4
North Dakota	2.3
Minnesota	2.0
Nebraska	2.0

November's nonagricultural employment estimates show growth of 2,600 jobs or 1.2 percent over the year (see page 15). Despite slower growth earlier in the year, the service producing sector picked up 2,100 jobs (1.2 percent), while the number of goods producing jobs increased by 500 (1.1 percent). Nationally, employment growth (as measured by the establishment survey) slowed to 2.3 percent in November as seen in the figure on page 15.

Wyoming's unemployment rate rose from 4.0 in October to 4.4 percent in November and is currently above the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1 percent (see table at left). This is the first time in several months that Wyoming's rate has been above the U.S., but reflects a seasonal pattern seen in most years. Generally, Wyoming's unemployment rate is slightly lower than the U.S. rate in the summer and higher in the winter months. This may be due to Wyoming's dependence on seasonal industries such as agriculture, tourism and construction. Civilian labor force increased 2.1 percent over the year (see page 13).

The decline in Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claims slowed this month (see pages 10 and 11). Although statewide continued UI Claims were down 8.0 percent over the year, nine counties had higher claims than last year. November is the 22nd straight month of declines in UI claims in over-the-year comparisons. Initial and Additional claims were 20.2 percent below last year's level.

Industries with strong growth included business services (300 jobs or 5.0%) and gas stations (200 jobs or 5.0%; see page 15). Decreases in employment were seen in federal government (down 400 jobs or 5.8%) and eating and drinking places (down 200 jobs or 1.2%).

David Bullard is an Economist, specializing in Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) with Research & Planning.

He also produces the **Research & Planning News Release.**



The "Monthly News" (above) is a new feature in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, based on the *Research & Planning News Release* (a monthly publication summarizing the economic conditions of the state). To receive the *News Release*, which is published approximately two weeks before *Trends*, call 307-473-3810.

New from Research & Planning: County Fact Sheets! This publication features interesting facts on all of Wyoming's 23 counties and includes covered employment and wages as well as annual average unemployment data.

Call 307-473-3807 to get your free copy, or visit R&P's website!

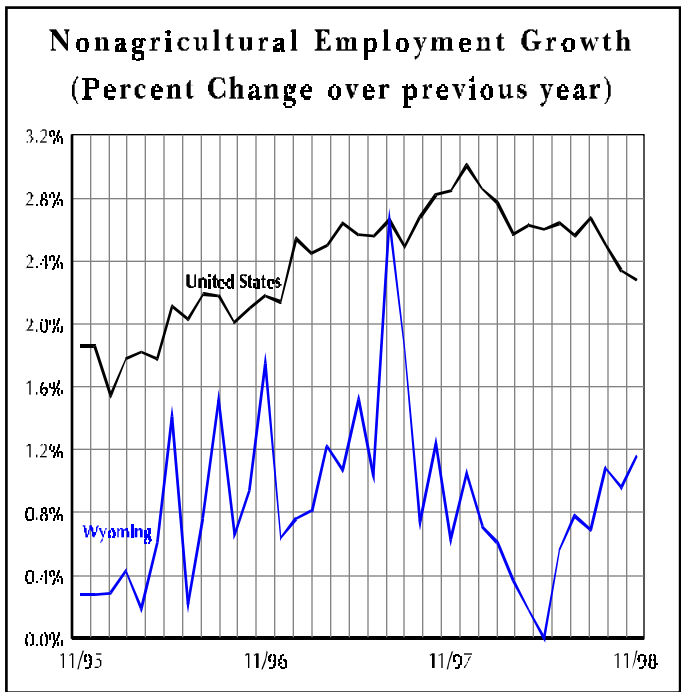
<http://wyjobs.state.wy.us/lmi/rphome.htm>

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

Data produced by: Gregg Detweiler

"Wyoming's total nonagricultural wage and salary employment was up over the year (+1.2% from November 1997 to 1998) and showed a typical seasonal decrease from October to November 1998 (-2.0%)."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	NOV 98(p)	OCT 98(r)	NOV 97	OCT 98	NOV 97		NOV 98(p)	OCT 98(r)	NOV 97	NOV 98	NOV 97
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	226.2	230.9	223.6	-2.0	1.2	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.9	35.9	35.1	0.0	2.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	44.7	46.4	44.2	-3.7	1.1	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	4.2	3.8	-9.5	0.0
Mining	17.5	17.7	17.3	-1.1	1.2	Mining & Construction	2.1	2.4	2.1	-12.5	0.0
Coal Mining	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	2.2	Manufacturing	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	9.1	9.2	9.0	-1.1	1.1	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	32.0	31.8	31.3	0.6	2.2
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.4	6.5	6.3	-1.5	1.6	Trade	8.8	8.7	8.7	1.1	1.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	15.9	17.1	15.7	-7.0	1.3	Retail Trade	8.0	7.9	7.9	1.3	1.3
General Building Contractors	3.9	4.1	3.8	-4.9	2.6	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Services	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Heavy Construction	4.6	5.0	4.5	-8.0	2.2	Services	7.5	7.4	7.1	1.4	5.6
Special Trade Construction	7.4	8.0	7.4	-7.5	0.0	Total Government	11.1	11.1	11.0	0.0	0.9
Manufacturing	11.3	11.6	11.2	-2.6	0.9	Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.1	5.2	5.1	-1.9	0.0	State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	6.2	6.4	6.1	-3.1	1.6	Local Government	5.4	5.4	5.3	0.0	1.9
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3						
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	181.5	184.5	179.4	-1.6	1.2	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.0	13.9	13.9	0.7	0.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.4	31.6	30.6	-0.6	2.6
Transportation	8.8	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.0	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.8	6.0	5.6	-3.3	3.6
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	2.8	Mining	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0
Communications	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3	Construction	2.0	2.1	1.9	-4.8	5.3
Telephone Communications	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.6	25.6	25.0	0.0	2.4
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-3.1	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Electric Services	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8	Transportation	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Trade	52.4	53.2	51.9	-1.5	1.0	Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	7.9	7.9	7.8	0.0	1.3	Trade	8.6	8.6	8.4	0.0	2.4
Durable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	Retail Trade	6.2	6.2	6.1	0.0	1.6
Retail Trade	44.5	45.3	44.1	-1.8	0.9	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0	Services	8.5	8.6	8.3	-1.2	2.4
General Merchandise Stores	5.2	5.0	5.1	4.0	2.0	Personal & Business Services	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3
Department Stores	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.9	0.0	Health Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
Food Stores	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0	Government	5.6	5.5	5.4	1.8	3.7
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	7.9	8.1	7.7	-2.5	2.6	Local Government	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.4	5.0
Gas Stations	4.2	4.3	4.0	-2.3	5.0	Local Education	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	3.6
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.5	1.4	1.4	7.1	7.1						
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.4	1.4	7.1	7.1						
Eating & Drinking Places	16.1	17.0	16.3	-5.3	-1.2						
Miscellaneous Retail	4.9	4.9	4.8	0.0	2.1						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.5	8.4	8.2	1.2	3.7						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.0	3.9	3.9	2.6	2.6						
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2						
Insurance	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5						
Services	47.0	49.8	46.2	-5.6	1.7						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	6.8	8.7	6.7	-21.8	1.5						
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0						
Business Services	6.3	6.4	6.0	-1.6	5.0						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.4	0.0						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	2.7	3.2	2.7	-15.6	0.0						
Health Services	10.4	10.4	10.3	0.0	1.0						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8						
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3						
Social Services	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0						
Membership Organizations	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0						
Engineering & Management	3.4	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0						
Government	59.6	59.2	59.2	0.7	0.7						
Total Federal Government	6.5	6.7	6.9	-3.0	-5.8						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	13.7	13.6	13.7	0.7	0.0						
State Education	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0						
Total Local Government	39.4	38.9	38.6	1.3	2.1						
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0	2.0						
Local Education	22.0	21.9	21.7	0.5	1.4						



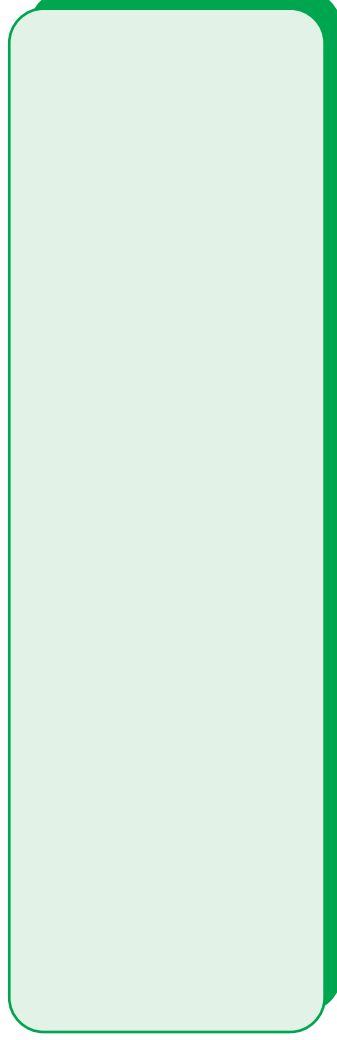
(1) Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.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

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(p) Subject to revision. (r) Revised.

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January 1999 TRENDS:

Wyoming nonagricultural employment grew by 2,600 new jobs over the year (1.2%; see page 15). The service producing sector, which employs four-fifths of Wyoming's workers, accounted for two-thirds of the new jobs. Statewide Unemployment Insurance (UI) initial claims increased in Mining (106.3%), the only industry to show an increase for both October and November (see page 10). Wyoming's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased significantly to 4.4 percent from October, while the U.S. rate dropped to 4.1 percent in the same time period (see page 13). -- **Valerie A. Davis**