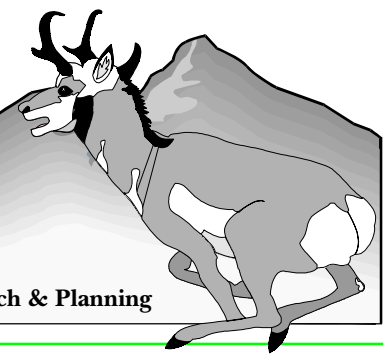


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS



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A Decade of Employment Growth in Wyoming: 1988-1998

by: David Bullard, Economist

"The structure of Wyoming's economy has changed dramatically in the past ten years. From 1988 to 1998, total covered employment has increased by 39,708 jobs or 21.9 percent."

Employment has grown steadily in Wyoming during the past ten years. During much of the decade, wage growth did not keep pace with inflation, leaving Wyoming workers with decreasing purchasing power. This article examines the changes in employment by industry and average industry wages in order to explain this phenomenon.

The structure of Wyoming's economy has changed dramatically in the past ten years. From 1988 to 1998, total covered employment increased by 39,708 jobs or 21.9 percent.¹ However, this growth was not consistent across industries. Employment in some industries grew quickly, while others grew only modestly or declined. Table 1 (see page 2) shows that the Services industry

created the largest number of new jobs (16,799). It was followed by Retail Trade (9,670), Construction (5,751) and Local Government (4,266). Together, these four industries account for over ninety percent of the new jobs during the ten-year period.²

What are wages like in these high-growth industries? Table 2 (see page 3) shows that in 1998, of the four high-growth industries, only Construction paid wages above the statewide annual average wage of \$24,745. However, over the ten-year period, wage growth within Construction was slower than inflation. In real terms,³ annual average wages in Construction decreased by 8.5 percent (see Table 3, page 3). Local Government's real annual average

wage of \$26,156 in 1988 was above the statewide average of \$25,650, but by 1998 it had fallen 11.0 percent (the largest drop of any industry). Retail Trade and Services experienced real wage growth from 1988 to 1998, but still paid below-average wages (\$13,789 and \$19,411, respectively).

Not all industries grew. Mining, Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU) and Federal Government each experienced declining employment (-1,252, -639 and -527, respectively). Table 2 (see page 3) shows that all three of these industries pay higher than the average wage of \$24,745. In fact, Mining, Federal Government

(Continued on page 2)

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Table 1: Employment by Industry 1988 and 1998

	<u>Employment</u>		<u>Change</u>		<u>Percent of</u>
	1988	1998	Number	Percent	<u>New Jobs</u>
Total	180,957	220,665	39,708	21.9%	
Agriculture	1,957	3,211	1,254	64.1%	3.2%
Mining	18,088	16,836	-1,252	-6.9%	-3.2%
Construction	10,232	15,983	5,751	56.2%	14.5%
Manufacturing	8,757	10,932	2,175	24.8%	5.5%
TCPU*	11,746	11,107	-639	-5.4%	-1.6%
Wholesale Trade	7,086	7,791	705	9.9%	1.8%
Retail Trade	35,404	45,074	9,670	27.3%	24.4%
FIRE**	7,363	8,545	1,182	16.1%	3.0%
Services	31,307	48,106	16,799	53.7%	42.3%
Federal Government	7,640	7,113	-527	-6.9%	-1.3%
State Government	11,224	11,548	324	2.9%	0.8%
Local Government	30,153	34,419	4,266	14.1%	10.7%

* Transportation, Communication & Real Estate

* Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

and TCPU are the three industries which pay the highest wages.

With a higher proportion of Wyoming's employment in lower-wage industries and a lower

proportion in high-wage industries, it is not surprising that the statewide average wage has not kept pace with inflation. From 1988 to 1998, the average annual wage increased by \$6,129 or 32.9

percent. However, the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban consumers (CPI-U) grew by

(Continued on page 3)

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Table 2: Nominal Annual Wage by Industry 1988 and 1998

	1988	1998	Percent Change
Total	\$18,616	\$24,745	32.9%
Agriculture	\$12,182	\$17,197	41.2%
Mining	\$35,577	\$47,676	34.0%
Construction	\$21,297	\$26,844	26.0%
Manufacturing	\$21,168	\$32,211	52.2%
TCPU*	\$26,763	\$34,436	28.7%
Wholesale Trade	\$22,472	\$30,374	35.2%
Retail Trade	\$9,851	\$13,789	40.0%
FIRE**	\$18,963	\$29,325	54.6%
Services	\$13,442	\$19,411	44.4%
Federal Government	\$25,087	\$38,088	51.8%
State Government	\$21,219	\$28,054	32.2%
Local Government	\$18,983	\$23,283	22.7%

* Transportation, Communication & Real Estate

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Table 3: Real Annual Wage by Industry 1988 and 1998 (in constant 1998 dollars)

	1988	1998	Percent Change
Total	\$25,650	\$24,745	-3.5%
Agriculture	\$16,785	\$17,197	2.5%
Mining	\$49,020	\$47,676	-2.7%
Construction	\$29,344	\$26,844	-8.5%
Manufacturing	\$29,166	\$32,211	10.4%
TCPU*	\$36,875	\$34,436	-6.6%
Wholesale Trade	\$30,963	\$30,374	-1.9%
Retail Trade	\$13,573	\$13,789	1.6%
FIRE**	\$26,128	\$29,325	12.2%
Services	\$18,521	\$19,411	4.8%
Federal Government	\$34,566	\$38,088	10.2%
State Government	\$29,237	\$28,054	-4.0%
Local Government	\$26,156	\$23,283	-11.0%

* Transportation, Communication & Real Estate

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

37.8 percent, leaving Wyoming workers with smaller real wages.⁴

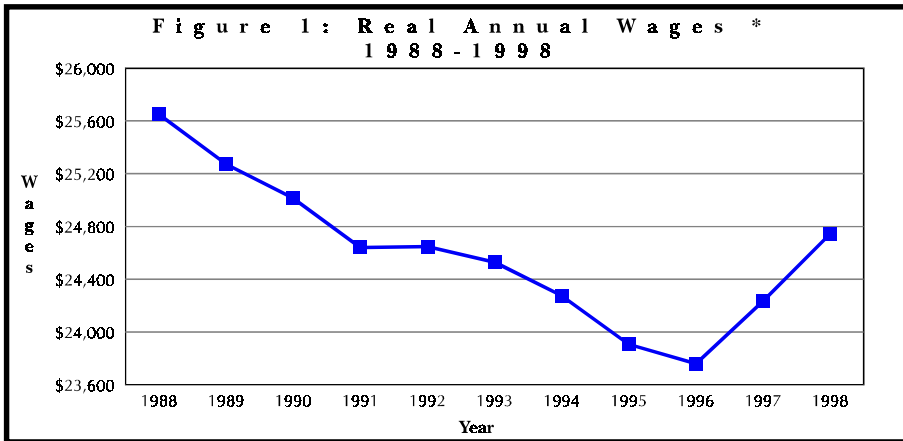
Figure 1 (see page 4) illustrates this decline in real wages. Wages are shown in constant 1998 dollars. Real wages fell from 1988 to 1996, and then increased during 1997 and 1998. What has caused the turnaround in real wage growth? Figure 2 (see page 4) shows both inflation and wage growth (the two series used to produce Figure 1). Inflation has trended downward since 1990, while wages grew quickly in 1997 and 1998. Strong wage growth in Wyoming during 1997 and 1998 may be related to a tight national labor market which has forced many employers to raise wages.

In summary, the decline in real wages over the ten-year period appears to be related to changes in the industrial structure of Wyoming's economy. There was a shift away from high-paying jobs in Mining, TCPU and Federal Government to lower-paying jobs in Services, Retail Trade and Local Government. Since 1996, however, there has been a turnaround in real wages, with healthy gains in 1997 and 1998.

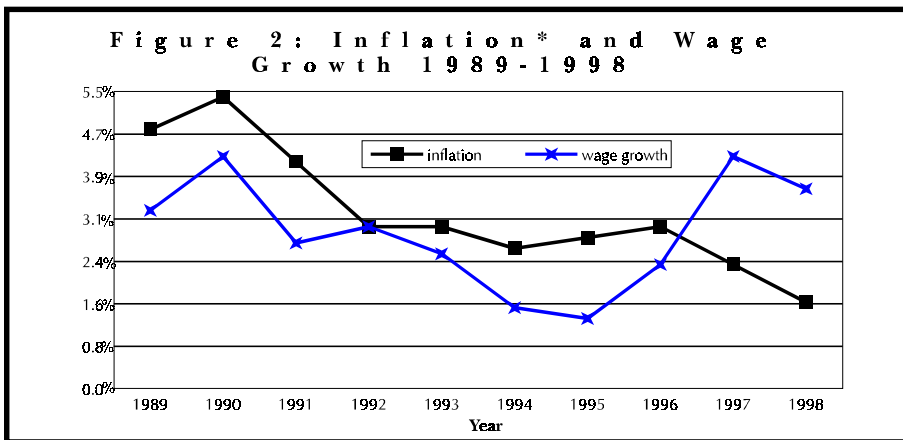
1 Covered employment is the total number of jobs covered by unemployment insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE). This accounts for about 90 percent of the jobs in the state.

2 The reader can conduct similar analysis at the county level using the recently released **Wyoming**

(Continued on page 4)



*Real wages are adjusted for inflation and stated in constant dollars.



*Inflation as measured by the CPI-U.

1998 Annual Covered Employment and Wages

publication. This publication is available from Research & Planning at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/>.

3 Wages can be stated in either nominal or real terms. Nominal wages are stated in current dollars, that is, 1982 wages are stated in 1982 dollars. Real wages are adjusted for inflation and stated in constant dollars. In Table 3 (see page 3), wages are adjusted to 1998 dollars using the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U). Adjusting for inflation allows us to compare the purchasing power of wages from different time periods.

4 For more information on the Consumer Price Index including historical data from 1913 to the present, see <http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>.



Average Annual Pay by State 1997 and 1998

by: David Bullard, Economist

"In 1998, Wyoming's annual average pay of \$24,747 placed it 45th out of the 50 states. Colorado was the only neighboring state with annual average pay higher than the U.S. average."

The Table (see page 5) shows the 50 states (plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) ranked by 1998 annual average pay. Wyoming and its neighboring states are highlighted. In 1998, Wyoming's annual average pay of \$24,747 placed it 45th out of the 50 states. Many of the neighboring states have rankings similar to Wyoming's: Montana (50th), South Dakota (49th), Idaho

(44th) and Nebraska (41st). The two stand outs in the region were Utah, which was ranked 33rd, and Colorado, which placed 12th. Colorado was the only neighboring state with annual average pay higher than the U.S. average.

Most states, including Wyoming, Idaho and Utah, did not change their ranking from 1997 to 1998. Colorado, however, moved up two

places from 14th to 12th. South Dakota's wages increased enough for it to move up from 50th to 49th, displacing Montana. Nebraska edged up from 42nd to 41st.

Between 1997 and 1998, U.S. annual average pay increased by 5.1 percent. This is well above the 1998 inflation rate of 1.6 percent, suggesting that U.S. workers have experienced growth in real wages.

Table: States Ranked by 1998 Annual Average Pay

State	Average Annual Pay		Percent Change 1997-1998
	1997	1998	
United States	\$30,353	\$31,908	5.1
District of Columbia	46,761	48,727	4.2
Connecticut	38,941	40,915	5.1
New York	38,543	40,678	5.5
Massachusetts	35,716	37,787	5.8
New Jersey	37,514	*	N / A
California	33,525	35,349	5.4
Illinois	33,024	34,704	5.1
Michigan	32,780	34,542	5.4
Delaware	32,188	33,996	5.6
Alaska	33,156	33,839	2.1
Maryland	31,763	33,306	4.9
Washington	30,769	33,076	7.5
Colorado	30,066	32,246	7.3
Minnesota	30,231	32,073	6.1
Pennsylvania	30,163	31,582	4.7
Texas	29,699	31,512	6.1
Virginia	29,548	31,384	6.2
New Hampshire	29,296	30,943	5.6
Georgia	29,037	30,873	6.3
Ohio	29,094	30,395	4.5
Nevada	28,672	30,201	5.3
Rhode Island	28,662	30,148	5.2
Oregon	28,411	29,542	4.0
Arizona	27,659	29,317	6.0
Indiana	27,635	29,107	5.3
Hawaii	28,357	29,029	2.4
Missouri	27,780	28,907	4.1
Wisconsin	27,337	28,542	4.4
Tennessee	27,248	28,457	4.4
Florida	26,673	28,143	5.5
North Carolina	26,684	28,107	5.3
Alabama	26,139	27,035	3.4
Louisiana	25,755	26,905	4.5
Utah	25,736	26,869	4.4
Kansas	25,694	26,842	4.5
Kentucky	25,577	26,689	4.3
Vermont	25,496	26,615	4.4
South Carolina	24,995	26,151	4.6
Iowa	24,803	26,035	5.0
Maine	24,899	25,875	3.9
New Mexico	24,684	25,716	4.2
Nebraska	24,656	25,535	3.9
West Virginia	24,716	25,269	2.2
Oklahoma	24,226	25,122	3.7
Idaho	24,062	24,866	3.3
Wyoming	23,866	24,747	3.7
Arkansas	23,277	24,422	4.9
Mississippi	22,778	23,822	4.6
North Dakota	22,049	22,990	4.3
South Dakota	21,648	22,754	5.1
Montana	21,946	22,644	3.2
Puerto Rico	16,949	17,902	5.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics News Release, "Average Annual Pay by State and Industry, 1998," December 15, 1999.

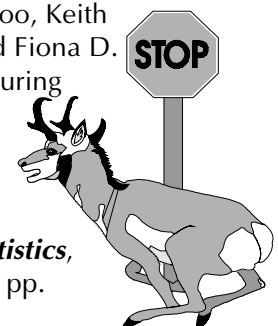
* (New Jersey data were not available for the third and fourth quarters of 1998 and therefore are not shown in this table. Totals for the United States were calculated using estimated data for New Jersey.) For purposes of ranking, it was assumed that 1998 annual average pay for New Jersey was the same as 1997.

Wyoming's annual average pay increased 3.7 percent, a growth rate similar to many neighboring states including Montana (3.2%), Idaho (3.3%) and Utah (4.4%). Colorado's pay increased by 7.3 percent, the second largest increase of all 50 states. South Dakota experienced a 5.1 percent increase in average pay.

What factors affect annual average pay? The preceding article notes the importance of the industrial structure of a state's economy. States dominated by high-paying industries such as Mining or Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) will tend to have higher wages than those dependent on low-wage industries such as Agriculture or Retail Trade. A study on 1995 annual average wages across states found that densely populated states with high levels of education tended to have higher wages.¹ Interstate differences in cost of living may also affect annual average pay. Many would agree that the top states for wages probably have higher costs for housing and other goods and services. However, accurately measuring interstate cost of living is notoriously difficult.²

1 David Bullard, "How Education and Population Density Affect Average Wages at the State Level," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, March 1997, p. 5.

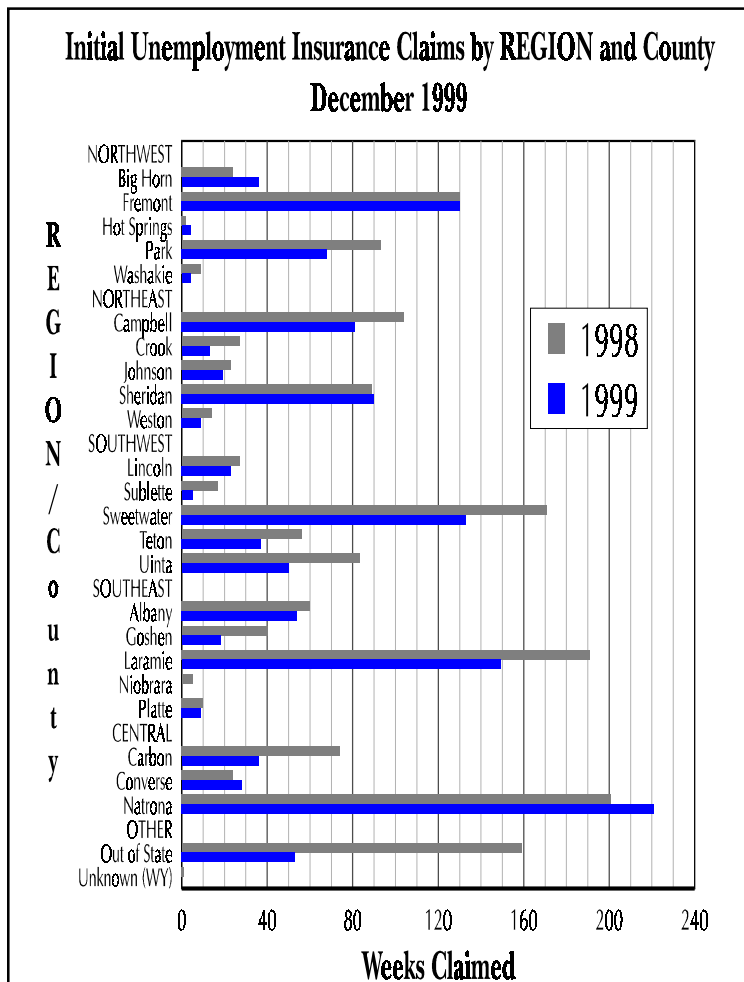
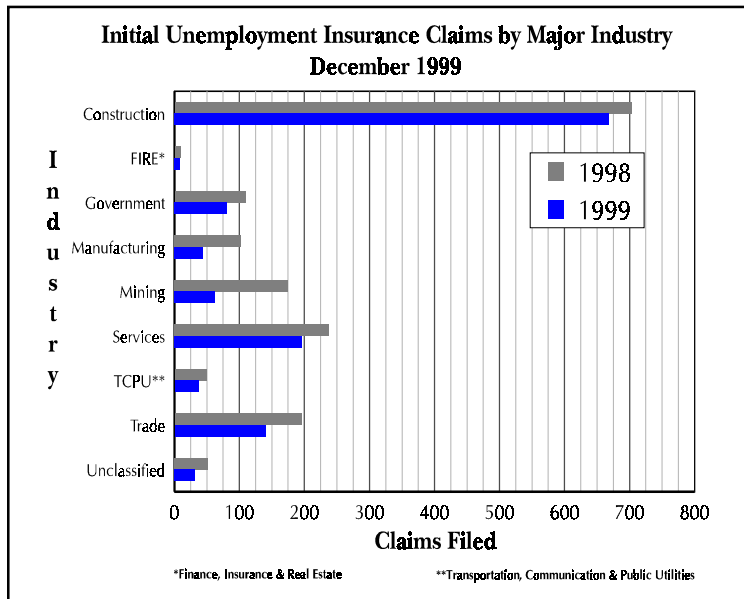
2 Jahyeong Koo, Keith R. Phillips and Fiona D. Sigalla, "Measuring Regional Cost of Living," *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, January 2000, pp. 127-136.



Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Richard Peters, Economist

"Compared with the previous year, statewide initial claims either decreased or remained constant for all industries."



	Claims Filed		Percent Change	
	DEC 99	NOV 99	DEC 98	DEC 99
WYOMING STATEWIDE				
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	1,269	1,113	1,632	14.0 -22.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	775	602	980	28.7 -20.9
Manufacturing	44	51	102	-13.7 -56.9
Mining	63	51	175	23.5 -64.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	48	28	143	71.4 -66.4
Construction	668	500	703	33.6 -5.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	462	477	600	-3.1 -23.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	37	44	49	-15.9 -24.5
Transportation	31	43	43	-27.9 -27.9
Communications & Public Utilities	6	1	6	500.0 0.0
Trade	140	141	195	-0.7 -28.2
Wholesale Trade	18	19	25	-5.3 -28.0
Retail Trade	122	122	170	0.0 -28.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8	8	9	0.0 -11.1
Services	196	194	238	1.0 -17.6
Personal & Business Services	65	60	71	8.3 -8.5
Health Services	10	12	19	-16.7 -47.4
Government	81	90	109	-10.0 -25.7
Local Government	32	33	36	-3.0 -11.1
Local Education	4	5	4	-20.0 0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	32	34	52	-5.9 -38.5

LARAMIE COUNTY				
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	147	128	190	14.8 -22.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	97	80	127	21.3 -23.6
Manufacturing	4	4	12	0.0 -66.7
Mining	2	0	10	0.0 -80.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	0	2	0.0 -50.0
Construction	91	76	105	19.7 -13.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	47	40	59	17.5 -20.3
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	6	2	6	200.0 0.0
Transportation	5	2	4	150.0 25.0
Communications & Public Utilities	1	0	2	0.0 -50.0
Trade	15	13	19	15.4 -21.1
Wholesale Trade	5	2	2	150.0 150.0
Retail Trade	10	11	17	-9.1 -41.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1	2	0	-50.0 0.0
Services	20	17	25	17.6 -20.0
Personal & Business Services	10	5	8	100.0 25.0
Health Services	2	3	8	-33.3 -75.0
Government	5	6	9	-16.7 -44.4
Local Government	1	2	3	-50.0 -66.7
Local Education	0	1	0	0.0 0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	3	8	4	-62.5 -25.0

NATRONA COUNTY				
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	219	188	200	16.5 9.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	165	123	130	34.1 26.9
Manufacturing	1	2	12	-50.0 -91.7
Mining	14	5	14	180.0 0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	9	3	11	200.0 -18.2
Construction	150	116	104	29.3 44.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	51	63	60	-19.0 -15.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	6	9	9	-33.3 -33.3
Transportation	6	8	9	-25.0 -33.3
Communications & Public Utilities	0	1	0	0.0 0.0
Trade	17	12	27	41.7 -37.0
Wholesale Trade	2	4	4	-50.0 -50.0
Retail Trade	15	8	23	87.5 -34.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2	0	1	0.0 100.0
Services	24	30	17	-20.0 41.2
Personal & Business Services	6	12	6	-50.0 0.0
Health Services	1	3	4	-66.7 -75.0
Government	2	12	6	-83.3 -66.7
Local Government	1	10	3	-90.0 -66.7
Local Education	1	1	1	0.0 0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	3	2	10	50.0 -70.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

data produced by: Richard Peters, Economist

"Continued claims increased 50.5 percent from November 1999 to December 1999. However, over-the-year change indicates a decrease of 12.5 percent."

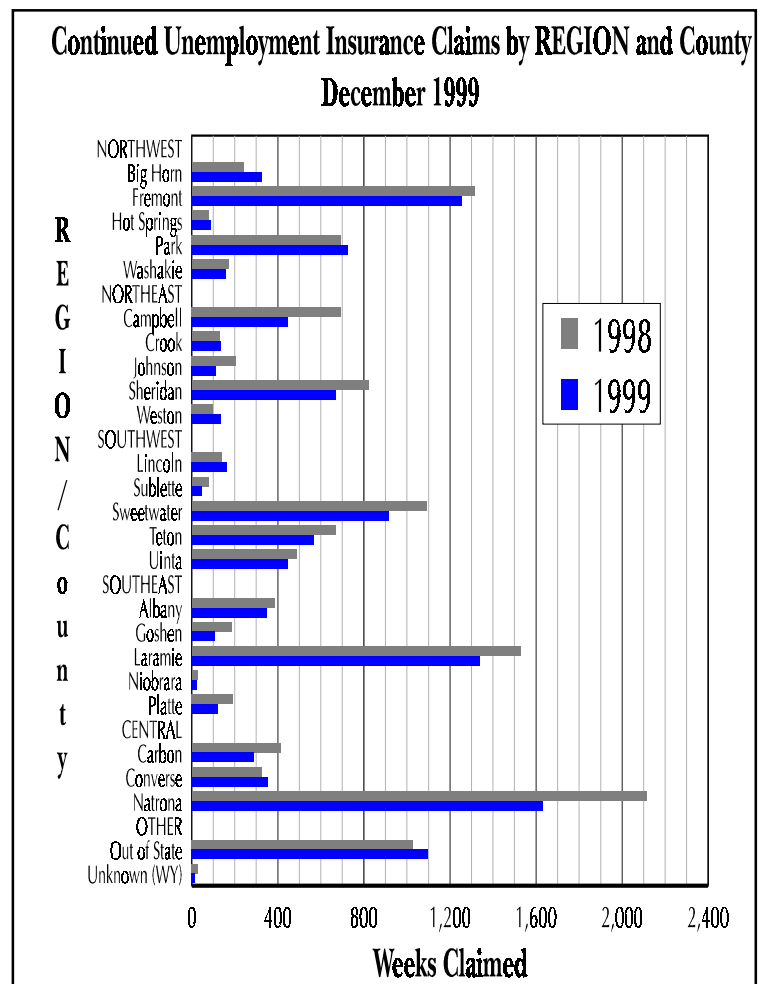
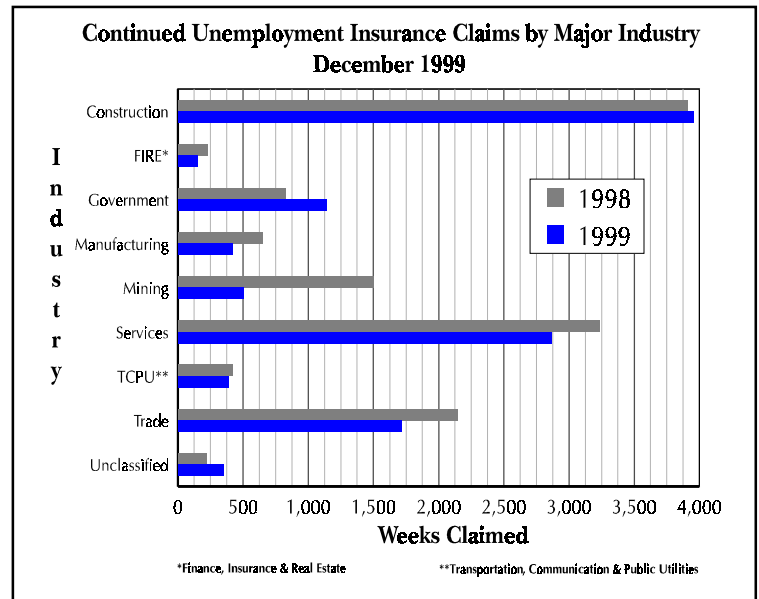
	Percent Change				
	Claims Filed			Claims Filed	
	DEC 99	NOV 99	DEC 98	DEC 99	DEC 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	11,497	7,640	13,133	50.5	-12.5
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	4,014	2,751	4,374	45.9	-8.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4,877	2,781	6,062	75.4	-19.5
Manufacturing	419	323	651	29.7	-35.6
Mining	500	486	1,502	2.9	-66.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	306	311	1,213	-1.6	-74.8
Construction	3,958	1,972	3,909	100.7	1.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	6,269	4,657	6,851	34.6	-8.5
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	390	314	419	24.2	-6.9
Transportation	329	251	343	31.1	-4.1
Communications & Public Utilities	61	63	76	-3.2	-19.7
Trade	1,717	1,275	2,144	34.7	-19.9
Wholesale Trade	238	180	302	32.2	-21.2
Retail Trade	1,479	1,095	1,842	35.1	-19.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	154	153	229	0.7	-32.8
Services	2,866	2,198	3,232	30.4	-11.3
Personal & Business Services	669	494	877	35.4	-23.7
Health Services	210	184	312	14.1	-32.7
Government	1,142	717	827	59.3	38.1
Local Government	392	278	415	41.0	-5.5
Local Education	99	87	108	13.8	-8.3
UNCLASSIFIED	351	202	220	73.8	59.5

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,334	859	1,530	55.3	-12.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	484	301	496	60.8	-2.4
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	692	301	762	129.9	-9.2
Manufacturing	14	21	74	-33.3	-81.1
Mining	7	8	24	-12.5	-70.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	4	8	24	-50.0	-83.3
Construction	671	272	664	146.7	1.1
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	584	526	736	11.0	-20.7
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	62	48	60	29.2	3.3
Transportation	56	36	50	55.6	12.0
Communications & Public Utilities	6	12	10	-50.0	-40.0
Trade	202	189	290	6.9	-30.3
Wholesale Trade	27	21	27	28.6	0.0
Retail Trade	175	168	263	4.2	-33.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	35	41	39	-14.6	-10.3
Services	211	176	278	19.9	-24.1
Personal & Business Services	56	50	97	12.0	-42.3
Health Services	26	18	52	44.4	-50.0
Government	74	72	69	2.8	7.2
Local Government	13	10	33	30.0	-60.6
Local Education	4	8	9	-50.0	-55.6
UNCLASSIFIED	58	32	32	81.3	81.3

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,631	1,064	2,113	53.3	-22.8
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	591	375	679	57.6	-13.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	843	481	1,012	75.3	-16.7
Manufacturing	80	74	100	8.1	-20.0
Mining	94	88	320	6.8	-70.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	47	53	262	-11.3	-82.1
Construction	669	319	592	109.7	13.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	762	575	1,064	32.5	-28.4
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	55	53	57	3.8	-3.5
Transportation	43	40	51	7.5	-15.7
Communications & Public Utilities	12	13	6	-7.7	100.0
Trade	240	187	390	28.3	-38.5
Wholesale Trade	67	44	94	52.3	-28.7
Retail Trade	173	143	296	21.0	-41.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	50	41	50	22.0	0.0
Services	341	264	460	29.2	-25.9
Personal & Business Services	130	94	148	38.3	-12.2
Health Services	61	57	87	7.0	-29.9
Government	76	30	107	153.3	-29.0
Local Government	39	21	78	85.7	-50.0
Local Education	11	2	30	450.0	-63.3
UNCLASSIFIED	26	8	37	225.0	-29.7



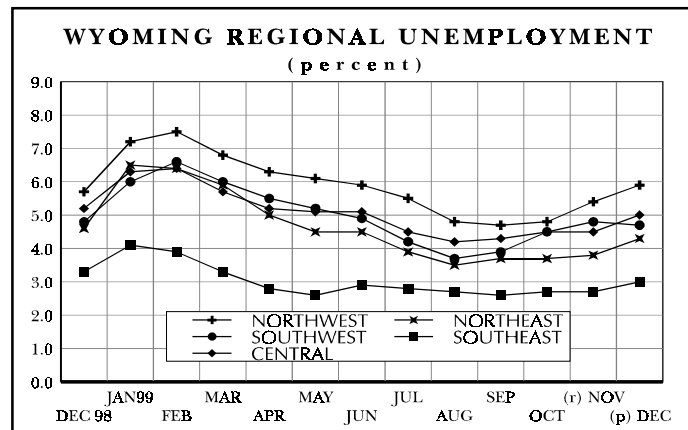
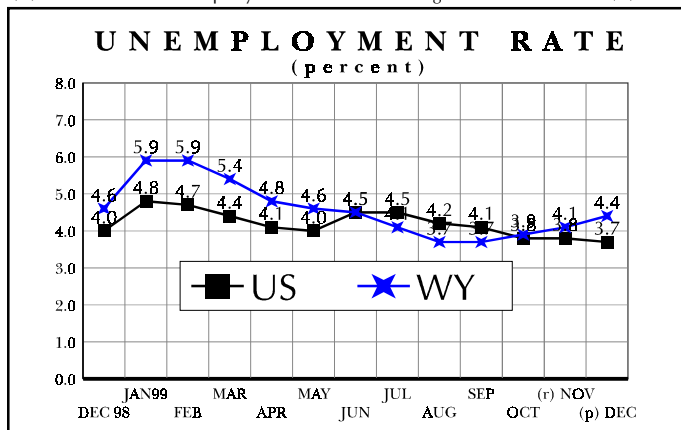
Wyoming Economic Indicators

"The number of building permits continues to increase over last year; December 1999 indicates 120 authorized permits compared to 82 in December 1998."

	December 1999 (p)	November 1999 (r)	December 1998 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	260,592	261,694	256,919	-0.4	1.4
Unemployed	11,561	10,768	11,743	7.4	-1.5
Employed	249,031	250,926	245,176	-0.8	1.6
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.4%/4.4%	4.1%/4.4%	4.6%/4.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.7%/4.1%	3.8%/4.1%	4.0%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	8,037,000	8,057,000	8,220,000	-0.2	-2.2
As a percent of all workers	6.0%	6.0%	6.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	267,000	272,000	358,000	-1.8	-25.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,332,000	3,045,000	3,455,000	9.4	-3.6
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$873.59	\$868.77	\$857.92	0.6	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	45.1	44.1	44.8	2.3	0.7
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$778.34	\$757.22	\$755.57	2.8	3.0
Average Weekly Hours	45.2	44.7	43.7	1.1	3.4
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$605.82	\$600.73	\$603.44	0.8	0.4
Average Weekly Hours	39.7	39.6	39.7	0.3	0.0
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$605.77	\$594.60	\$583.19	1.9	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	42.2	42.6	0.9	0.0
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	10,860	8,638	16,199	25.7	-33.0
Benefits Paid	\$2,161,764	\$1,573,591	\$2,870,597	37.4	-24.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$199.06	\$182.17	\$177.21	9.3	12.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	209,131	209,389	207,051	-0.1	1.0
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.5%	1.1%	1.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	168.3	168.3	163.9	0.0	2.7
Food & Beverages	165.9	165.7	162.7	0.1	2.0
Housing	164.8	164.9	161.3	-0.1	2.2
Apparel	130.1	133.6	130.7	-2.6	-0.5
Transportation	148.3	147.6	140.7	0.5	5.4
Medical Care	254.2	253.3	245.2	0.4	3.7
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	102.0	101.9	101.2	0.1	0.8
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	102.3	102.2	100.7	0.1	1.6
Other Goods & Services	263.0	263.0	250.3	0.0	5.1
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	128.0	128.4	122.8	-0.3	4.2
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	120	121	82	-0.8	46.3
Valuation	\$10,731,000	\$12,785,000	\$8,498,000	-16.1	26.3

(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, Economist

"All regions in the state show an over-the-year decrease in the unemployment rate except the Northwest region, which increased from 5.7 percent in December 1998 to 5.9 percent in December 1999."

REGION COUNTY	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 1999 (p)	Nov 1999 (r)	Dec 1998 (b)	Dec 1999 (p)	Nov 1999 (r)	Dec 1998 (b)	Dec 1999 (p)	Nov 1999 (r)	Dec 1998 (b)	Dec 1999 (p)	Nov 1999 (r)	Dec 1998 (b)
Northwest	45,412	46,367	44,431	42,721	43,843	41,891	2,691	2,524	2,540	5.9	5.4	5.7
Big Horn	5,697	5,888	5,758	5,326	5,556	5,417	371	332	341	6.5	5.6	5.9
Fremont	17,898	18,258	17,406	16,592	17,044	16,173	1,306	1,214	1,233	7.3	6.6	7.1
Hot Springs	2,406	2,467	2,385	2,311	2,371	2,294	95	96	91	3.9	3.9	3.8
Park	14,533	14,772	13,839	13,840	14,108	13,208	693	664	631	4.8	4.5	4.6
Washakie	4,878	4,982	5,043	4,652	4,764	4,799	226	218	244	4.6	4.4	4.8
Northeast	43,496	44,135	43,039	41,615	42,454	41,078	1,881	1,681	1,961	4.3	3.8	4.6
Campbell	19,800	19,908	19,326	19,028	19,170	18,513	772	738	813	3.9	3.7	4.2
Crook	2,938	3,110	2,971	2,769	2,956	2,822	169	154	149	5.8	5.0	5.0
Johnson	3,717	3,866	3,604	3,583	3,749	3,448	134	117	156	3.6	3.0	4.3
Sheridan	13,700	13,808	13,692	13,060	13,277	12,979	640	531	713	4.7	3.8	5.2
Weston	3,341	3,443	3,446	3,175	3,302	3,316	166	141	130	5.0	4.1	3.8
Southwest	51,598	51,173	51,948	49,159	48,718	49,455	2,439	2,455	2,493	4.7	4.8	4.8
Lincoln	6,374	6,457	6,010	5,979	6,173	5,625	395	284	385	6.2	4.4	6.4
Sublette	2,922	3,053	2,972	2,843	2,995	2,847	79	58	125	2.7	1.9	4.2
Sweetwater	20,838	20,624	21,951	19,690	19,554	20,751	1,148	1,070	1,200	5.5	5.2	5.5
Teton	10,763	10,147	10,020	10,502	9,701	9,790	261	446	230	2.4	4.4	2.3
Uinta	10,701	10,892	10,995	10,145	10,295	10,442	556	597	553	5.2	5.5	5.0
Southeast	71,109	70,923	69,359	69,003	69,042	67,100	2,106	1,881	2,259	3.0	2.7	3.3
Albany	17,494	17,685	17,343	17,215	17,398	17,011	279	287	332	1.6	1.6	1.9
Goshen	6,378	6,706	6,585	6,215	6,541	6,320	163	165	265	2.6	2.5	4.0
Laramie	41,604	40,660	39,669	40,148	39,433	38,253	1,456	1,227	1,416	3.5	3.0	3.6
Niobrara	1,238	1,328	1,320	1,209	1,299	1,283	29	29	37	2.3	2.2	2.8
Platte	4,395	4,544	4,442	4,216	4,371	4,233	179	173	209	4.1	3.8	4.7
Central	48,975	49,093	48,142	46,531	46,866	45,650	2,444	2,227	2,492	5.0	4.5	5.2
Carbon	8,057	8,346	8,252	7,667	7,988	7,776	390	358	476	4.8	4.3	5.8
Converse	6,541	6,709	6,458	6,157	6,380	6,128	384	329	330	5.9	4.9	5.1
Natrona	34,377	34,038	33,432	32,707	32,498	31,746	1,670	1,540	1,686	4.9	4.5	5.0
Statewide	260,592	261,694	256,919	249,031	250,926	245,176	11,561	10,768	11,743	4.4	4.1	4.6
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.4	4.4	4.5
U.S.....										3.7	3.8	4.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	4.1	4.4

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/99. Run Date 01/00.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1998 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.8 percent.
The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.2 to 5.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

**State Unemployment Rates
December 1999
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

<u>State</u>	<u>Unemp. Rate</u>
Puerto Rico	10.1
West Virginia	6.0
Alaska	5.9
District of Columbia	5.5
New Mexico	5.4
Montana	5.3
Oregon	4.8
California	4.6
Idaho	4.6
New York	4.5
Arkansas	4.4
Hawaii	4.4
Mississippi	4.4
Wyoming	4.4
Washington	4.3
Texas	4.2
Alabama	4.1
Illinois	4.0
South Carolina	3.9
Louisiana	3.8
New Jersey	3.8
Ohio	3.8
Arizona	3.7
United States	3.7
Kentucky	3.6
Pennsylvania	3.6
Maine	3.5
Nevada	3.5
Florida	3.4
Rhode Island	3.3
Georgia	3.2
Michigan	3.2
Oklahoma	3.1
Tennessee	3.1
Kansas	3.0
Delaware	2.9
Indiana	2.9
Massachusetts	2.9
Maryland	2.8
North Carolina	2.8
Missouri	2.7
North Dakota	2.7
Virginia	2.6
Wisconsin	2.6
Colorado	2.5
South Dakota	2.5
Vermont	2.5
Utah	2.4
Connecticut	2.3
Nebraska	2.3
New Hampshire	2.3
Iowa	2.2
Minnesota	2.2

December News

by: David Bullard, Economist

"The gap between Wyoming's job growth and U.S. job growth has narrowed considerably in the past few months."

Nonagricultural employment grew by 2,600 jobs or 1.1 percent in December (see page 11). As seen in the Figure on page 11, the gap between Wyoming's job growth and U.S. job growth has narrowed considerably in the past few months. Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 4.4 percent, slightly above the U.S. rate of 4.1 percent (see page 9).

Industries with strong growth in December included Construction (600 jobs or 3.9%), Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (400 jobs or 4.9%) and Manufacturing (300 jobs or 2.7%) - (see page 11). Driven by the holiday

shopping season, the Trade sector added 1,100 jobs for an increase of 2.1 percent. Hurt by job losses in Oil & Gas, employment in the Mining industry declined by 400 jobs or 2.4 percent.

Preliminary annual average figures for 1999 (see Table below) show nonagricultural employment growth of 1.3 percent over 1998. This is similar to growth of 1.5 percent in both 1997 and 1998. Civilian labor force increased by 1.4 percent in 1999 (see page 8), a slower pace than the 2.7 percent growth in 1998. The number of unemployed individuals fell by 3.1 percent in 1999, continuing the pattern set in 1998. These figures are subject to revision.

Table: Wyoming Preliminary Annual Averages (1997-1999)

	<u>1997(b)</u>		<u>1998(b)</u>		<u>1999(p)</u>	
	Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
Total Nonag Employment	224,500	1.5%	227,800	1.5%	230,700	1.3%
Civilian Labor Force	251,288	-1.9%	257,968	2.7%	261,648	1.4%
Unemployment	12,768	-0.7%	12,361	-3.2%	11,972	-3.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.1		4.8		4.6	

(b) Benchmarked. (p) Preliminary.

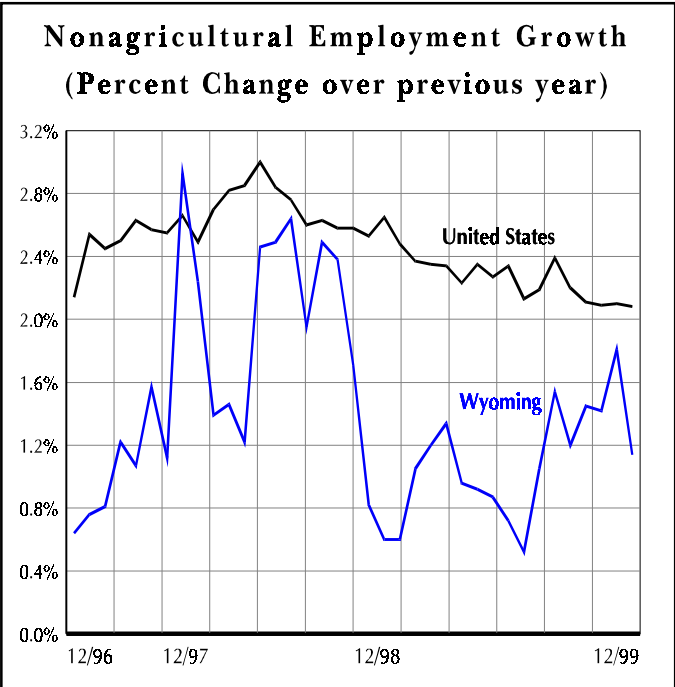


Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

data produced by: Rick Gallinger, Statistician

"The percent change in Wyoming statewide employment in the Construction industry showed an increase in over-the-year totals for every month of 1999, including a 3.9 percent increase from December 1998 to December 1999."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	DEC99(p)	NOV99(r)	DEC 98	DEC 99	DEC 98		DEC99(p)	NOV99(r)	DEC 98	DEC 99	DEC 98
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	230.3	231.0	227.7	-0.3	1.1	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.7	37.0	36.9	1.8	5.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	43.6	44.6	43.1	-2.2	1.2	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.1	4.2	4.0	-2.3	5.0
Mining	16.0	15.7	16.4	1.9	-2.4	Mining & Construction	2.4	2.5	2.2	-5.9	8.0
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	-2.0	1.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.0	7.6	8.4	5.3	-4.8	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	33.7	32.8	32.2	0.0	1.9
Crude Petro-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8	Transportation & Public Utilities	3.6	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
Oil & Gas Field Services	5.5	5.1	5.8	7.8	-5.2	Trade	8.8	8.6	8.6	1.8	2.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.6	2.7
Construction	16.1	17.4	15.5	-7.5	3.9	Retail Trade	8.0	7.8	7.8	1.9	2.0
General Building Contractors	4.2	4.4	3.7	-4.5	13.5	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.1	2.1	2.2	-1.0	-7.2
Heavy Construction	4.4	5.0	4.2	-12.0	4.8	Services	7.8	7.9	7.4	-2.3	5.2
Special Trade Construction	7.5	8.0	7.6	-6.3	-1.3	Total Government	11.4	11.4	11.1	0.3	1.9
Manufacturing	11.5	11.5	11.2	0.0	2.7	Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.9	1.5
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0	State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.5	-0.4
Nondurable Goods	6.4	6.4	6.1	0.0	4.9	Local Government	5.6	5.6	5.4	-0.1	3.5
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3						
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1						
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	186.7	186.4	184.6	0.2	1.1	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.4	14.5	14.3	-0.7	0.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.0	31.8	30.9	0.6	3.4
Transportation	9.0	9.1	9.0	-1.1	0.0	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.8	5.7	5.4	1.0	6.3
Railroad Transportation	2.8	3.0	2.9	-6.7	-3.4	Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6
Trucking & Warehousing	3.9	3.8	3.8	2.6	2.6	Mining	2.0	1.9	2.0	8.0	0.7
Communications	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5	Construction	2.2	2.3	1.9	-5.0	16.1
Telephone Communications	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.2	26.1	25.5	0.5	2.8
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	3.7	4.6
Electric Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3	Transportation	1.2	1.1	1.1	5.0	6.4
Trade	53.8	53.5	52.7	0.6	2.1	Communications & Public Utilities	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.7
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.6	7.7	1.3	0.0	Trade	8.6	8.4	8.5	1.4	0.2
Durable Goods	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.9	0.9
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.3	3.4	0.0	-2.9	Retail Trade	6.2	6.1	6.2	1.6	-0.1
Retail Trade	46.1	45.9	45.0	0.4	2.4	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.8
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0	Services	8.9	9.0	8.5	-1.5	5.0
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.3	5.1	3.8	7.8	Personal & Business Services	1.9	2.1	1.8	-10.7	4.6
Department Stores	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.7	7.1	Health Services	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	4.2
Food Stores	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	Government	5.7	5.6	5.5	1.0	3.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.1	8.2	7.9	-1.2	2.5	Local Government	4.3	4.3	4.2	1.9	5.1
Gas Stations	4.2	4.4	4.1	-4.5	2.4	Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.5	1.3
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0						
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0						
Eating & Drinking Places	16.5	16.4	16.2	0.6	1.9						
Miscellaneous Retail	5.1	5.2	5.0	-1.9	2.0						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.5	8.5	8.1	0.0	4.9						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4						
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0						
Insurance	2.3	2.3	1.8	0.0	27.8						
Services	49.7	49.4	49.5	0.6	0.4						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.2	7.0	7.1	2.9	1.4						
Personal Services	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0						
Business Services	7.0	7.5	7.4	-6.7	-5.4						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.8	2.9	0.0	-3.4						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.7	2.8	3.3	32.1	12.1						
Health Services	10.4	10.4	10.4	0.0	0.0						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0						
Legal Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0						
Social Services	5.7	5.8	5.7	-1.7	0.0						
Membership Organizations	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	0.0						
Engineering & Management	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0						
Government	60.3	60.5	60.0	-0.3	0.5						
Total Federal Government	6.6	6.7	6.8	-1.5	-2.9						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	13.7	13.8	13.7	-0.7	0.0						
State Education	5.6	5.7	5.6	-1.8	0.0						
Total Local Government	40.0	40.0	39.5	0.0	1.3						
Local Hospitals	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0						
Local Education	22.7	22.5	22.5	0.9	0.9						



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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