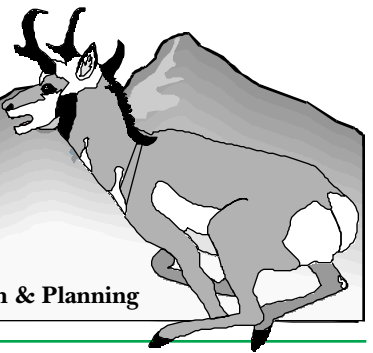


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

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Separation from the Wyoming Labor Market

by: G. Lee Saathoff, Economist

"Wyoming is losing the valuable economic resources of human and monetary capital each year."

There is concern in the state over the number of individuals leaving the Wyoming labor market. This article answers some of the questions relative to separations. We define a separation from the labor market, why it occurs, what level of separations Wyoming has experienced over the last few years and what factors cause individuals to leave the Wyoming labor market.

What is a separation from the labor market and why does it occur? To define a separation from the labor market, we first need to define an exit. An **exit** is anyone who ends employment with a firm. The individual can find employment with another firm within the same labor market or can leave the labor market. Those who leave a firm but remain in the labor market by taking employment with another firm are considered **job changers**¹. The second group, individuals who leave the labor market, are

considered **separations** from the labor market. How do we quantify separations from the labor market? In this research, a separation from the labor market has been defined as, "Anyone who was reported working in Unemployment Insurance (UI) Covered Employment during any part of a reference year² and then was not reported working in UI Covered Employment for at least two continuous years after that time." For example, if an individual's Social Security Number was found on wage records³ in any quarter in 1993, but was not found in any of the quarters in 1994 or 1995, s/he is considered an individual who separated from the labor market in 1993. This definition does not include individuals who change employers within the state of Wyoming. These individuals are classified under the definition of job changers. Job changers will be analyzed in a future issue of **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**.

We divided separations from the labor market into two subsets. The first subset is departures. **Departures** includes individuals who worked in at least two years prior to separating from the Wyoming labor market. For example, if an individual was found to have worked in at least one of the quarters in 1992 and at least one of the quarters in 1993 but was not found in any of the quarters in 1994 or 1995, s/he is classified in the departures subset for 1993. These individuals are found to have had a stronger attachment to Wyoming than the second subset.

The second subset is that of itinerant workers. **Itinerants** are individuals who worked in the reference year but did not show up on wage records the prior year. For example, if an individual worked in 1993, but was found not to have worked in any of the quarters in

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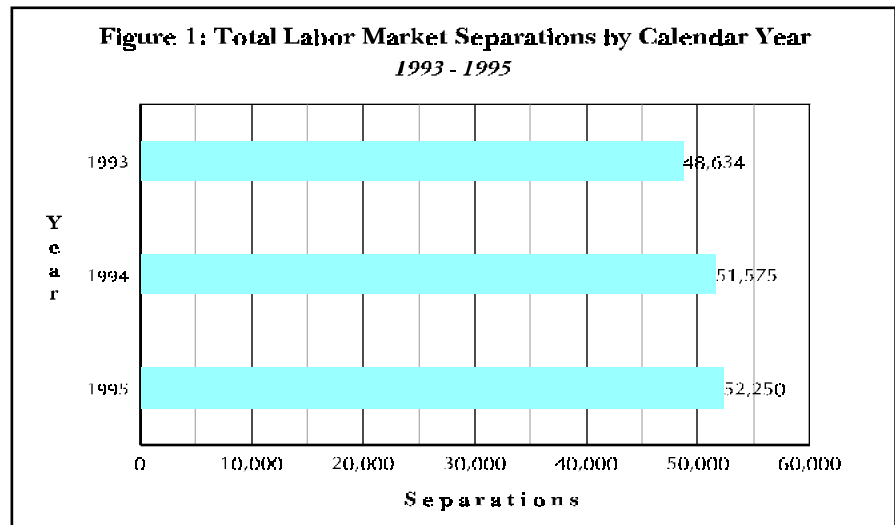
1992, 1994 or 1995, s/he is considered an itinerant job holder in 1993.

What is Wyoming’s history of separations from the labor market?

Wyoming seems to experience a high quantity of separations⁴, although comparable data are unavailable from other states. Data for the years 1992 through 1997 were used for this study. The following tables and charts refer to the years 1993 through 1995. This is due to the fact that it is necessary to have one prior year and two post years to analyze a reference year.

All three of the reference years show very similar results. Figure 1 shows that the number of separations from the labor market ranged from 48,634 in 1993 to 52,250 in 1995. This figure shows that the number of separations increased steadily over the three reference years. These separations accounted for almost 20 percent of each reference year’s labor market (see Table 1, page 3).

In 1993 there was a total UI covered labor market⁵ of 271,622 individuals (see Table 1, page 3). Of this total, 48,634 individuals were not found in the Wyoming covered labor



market in either 1994 or 1995. They had left or separated from the Wyoming labor market. This computes to 17.9 percent of the total Wyoming UI covered labor market. Similar percentages, 18.4 percent in 1994 and 18.6 percent in 1995, were found in the other two reference years. This means that almost one out of every five workers in the Wyoming labor market left the market each year.

The largest groups of separations were in the Services,

Retail Trade and Construction industries (see Table 1 and Figure 2, page 4). These three industries, along with Agriculture, also had the highest percentage of separations in the state relative to employment for that industry, ranging from 19.8 percent to 29.7 percent (see Table 1, page 3). The lowest percentage of separations from the labor market were found in the Local and State Government sectors.

Table 2 (page 5) takes the total

(Continued on page 3)

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Table 1: Comparison of Separations to the Total Labor Market by Calendar Year

	1993			1994			1995		
	Labor Market	Separations	Row Percent	Labor Market	Separations	Row Percent	Labor Market	Separations	Row Percent
Agriculture	4,753	1,414	29.7%	4,901	1,320	26.9%	4,935	1,279	25.9%
Mining	23,068	3,247	14.1%	22,410	3,102	13.8%	21,302	2,659	12.5%
Construction	22,280	5,653	25.4%	24,636	6,642	27.0%	25,076	6,753	26.9%
Manufacturing	13,267	1,884	14.2%	13,761	1,966	14.3%	13,454	1,888	14.0%
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	14,274	2,074	14.5%	14,223	2,330	16.4%	13,872	2,259	16.3%
Wholesale Trade	8,555	1,072	12.5%	8,862	1,153	13.0%	9,045	1,282	14.2%
Retail Trade	61,040	12,098	19.8%	62,268	12,401	19.9%	63,805	12,736	20.0%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	9,308	1,207	13.0%	9,466	1,239	13.1%	9,425	1,252	13.3%
Services	60,470	14,758	24.4%	62,925	15,448	24.5%	64,597	15,916	24.6%
Local Government	39,893	3,842	9.6%	41,716	4,591	11.0%	40,549	3,924	9.7%
State Government	13,259	1,141	8.6%	13,110	1,106	8.4%	12,876	1,268	9.8%
Federal Government*	1,302	201	15.4%	2,157	225	10.4%	1,964	1,001	51.0%
Unknown	153	43	28.1%	142	52	36.6%	125	33	26.4%
Totals	271,622	48,634	17.9%	280,577	51,575	18.4%	281,025	52,250	18.6%

* Federal Government employees are covered by a separate unemployment compensation program and need not report under Unemployment Insurance. Therefore, only a small portion of Federal Government employees are represented here.

number of separations and divides them into the two subsets departures and itinerants. Overall, the number of itinerant separations was about the same as departures. This table shows that three industries had more itinerant separations than departure separations all three reference years: Agriculture, Construction and Services. The lowest proportion of itinerant separations was found in State and Federal Government.

What factors could cause the separations from the Wyoming labor market? Separations can occur for a number of reasons. Some of the reasons that an individual might leave the labor market would include getting fired, getting laid off due to business shutdowns or cutbacks, finding work in another state, going back to school, staying home to take care of children, quitting, retiring, or dying. From an economic standpoint, these separations can have an increased negative effect on the Wyoming economy if these individuals not only leave the labor market but choose to leave the state. Employers use time and resources to train new hires. This training is lost to the Wyoming economy if these

individuals leave Wyoming. We are unable at this time to determine where such individuals go after they separate from the labor market. We are also currently unable to determine demographics about many of these individuals such as age, residence, education level or gender.

The main reason for dividing the separations into departures and itinerants was to analyze the labor market attachment that these individuals had to Wyoming. Departures seem to have a greater attachment to the labor market. The itinerant job holders overall have relatively no attachment to the Wyoming labor market. We were able to link demographic information⁶ to approximately 65 percent of departures but only 20 percent of itinerants.

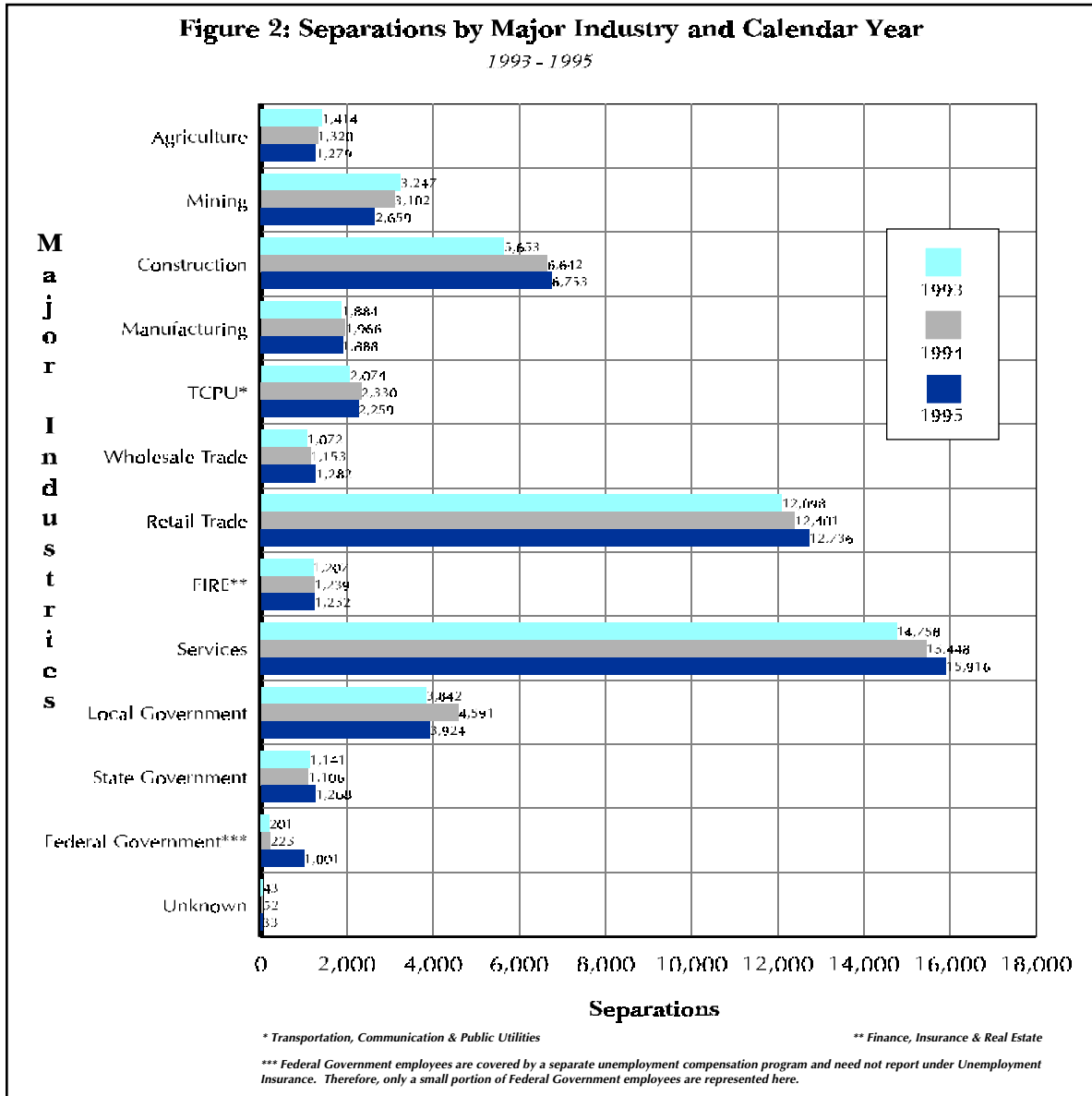
Two primary reasons exist for the itinerants' lack of attachment. First, these workers come from out-of-state to work in Wyoming on one project and when it is completed, they leave the state. This could account for the high quantity of itinerant job holders in both the Construction and the Services industries. Construction and

Services projects could get bid out to out-of-state firms because companies in Wyoming cannot perform the work or firms in Wyoming get underbid. If firms in Wyoming cannot perform the work, these industries are ones that Wyoming should look at for economic development.

The second reason that itinerant workers lack attachment to the Wyoming labor market is tourism. Tourism is an area that covers the Retail and Services sectors and has high seasonality⁷. Firms that are tourist-oriented and hire workers from out-of-state for the season cause both a labor and monetary drain on the Wyoming economy. These firms use time and resources to train workers and the workers take their skills, money and training with them when they leave. Agriculture and Construction fall under the same seasonality as tourism and can thus have the same effect on the Wyoming economy.

What can we conclude? First, there is a consistent pattern to the labor market separations from year to year of almost 20 percent.

(Continued on page 4)



Second, certain industries (Agriculture, Construction, Retail Trade and Services) have higher rates of separations than other industries, though most of the industries have rates greater than 10 percent. Third, Wyoming is losing the valuable economic resources of human and monetary capital each year. Wyoming employers use time and resources to train individuals who ultimately leave the state. In addition, much of the loss is due to out-of-state firms and workers performing itinerant jobs, then leaving the state and taking their labor and money with them. This

loss of human and monetary capital has an overall effect on the strength and growth of the Wyoming economy that needs to be addressed on a local and statewide basis.

The April, May, June and July issues of **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** will analyze four related areas of the Wyoming labor market. April will analyze **steady workers/different employers**, individuals who are attached to the Wyoming labor market, but have high rates of job changing. May will analyze **steady workers/same employer**, those who are attached to the

Wyoming labor market and are attached to one specific employer. The June issue will look at the converse of separations, that of **new hires** (individuals that were not previously in the Wyoming labor market). Finally, July's issue will look at the overall **turnover and job flow rates** employers experience in Wyoming. This looks at which industries have more stable working environments and if wages are a factor.

1 Brett Judd, "The Wyoming Wage

(Continued on page 5)

Record Classification System," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, March 1998, pp. 1-3; Gayle C. Edlin, "Changing Jobs Pays Off," *Trends*, October 1996, pp. 1-6.

2 **Reference year** refers to the specific year analyzed. If 1993 is the reference year, 1992, 1994 and 1995 are the years used to analyze it.

3 Wayne M. Gosar, "Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Record Summary Statistics: A New Way To Look At Wyoming," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, May 1995, pp. 4-5.

4 Phil Brooks and Mike Evans, "Population Migration Flows Among the Mountain & Plains States," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, September 1998, pp. 6-8.

5 UI covered labor market does not include individuals who are unemployed or not covered by Unemployment Insurance.

6 Demographic information is obtained from a number of source databases including: Driver's License, Employment Resource Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation. That is, demographic information is currently available for an individual who obtains a Wyoming driver's license, registers for work at an Employment Resources Center or seeks vocational rehabilitation.

7 Gregg Detweiler, "Seasonal Adjustment of Mining Employment," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, October 1998, p. 7.

Table 2: Categories of Separations by Major Industry and Calendar Year

	1993				
	Separations	Departures	Row Percent	Itinerant	Row Percent
Agriculture	1,414	538	38.0%	876	61.9%
Mining	3,247	1,557	47.9%	1,690	52.0%
Construction	5,653	2,024	35.8%	3,629	64.2%
Manufacturing	1,885	1,074	57.0%	810	43.0%
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	2,075	1,223	59.0%	851	41.0%
Wholesale	1,073	607	56.6%	465	43.4%
Retail	12,099	6,078	50.2%	6,020	49.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,208	766	63.4%	441	36.5%
Services	14,758	6,082	41.2%	8,676	58.8%
Local Government	3,843	2,511	65.3%	1,331	34.6%
State Government	1,142	874	76.5%	267	23.4%
Federal Government*	202	169	83.7%	32	15.9%
Unknown	43	16	36.9%	27	62.3%
Totals	48,641	23,519	48.4%	25,115	51.6%
	1994				
	Separations	Departures	Row Percent	Itinerant	Row Percent
Agriculture	1,320	486	36.8%	834	63.2%
Mining	3,103	1,795	57.9%	1,307	42.1%
Construction	6,642	2,455	37.0%	4,187	63.0%
Manufacturing	1,967	1,083	55.1%	883	44.9%
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	2,331	1,463	62.8%	867	37.2%
Wholesale	1,154	663	57.5%	490	42.5%
Retail	12,402	6,477	52.2%	5,924	47.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,240	775	62.5%	464	37.4%
Services	15,448	6,414	41.5%	9,034	58.5%
Local Government	4,592	2,651	57.7%	1,940	42.3%
State Government	1,107	866	78.2%	240	21.7%
Federal Government*	226	191	84.6%	34	15.1%
Unknown	52	26	49.5%	26	49.5%
Totals	51,582	25,345	49.1%	26,230	50.9%
	1995				
	Separations	Departures	Row Percent	Itinerant	Row Percent
Agriculture	1,279	495	38.7%	784	61.3%
Mining	2,660	1,574	59.2%	1,085	40.8%
Construction	6,753	2,716	40.2%	4,037	59.8%
Manufacturing	1,889	1,152	61.0%	736	39.0%
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	2,260	1,418	62.8%	841	37.2%
Wholesale	1,283	757	59.0%	525	40.9%
Retail	12,737	6,709	52.7%	6,027	47.3%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,253	844	67.4%	408	32.6%
Services	15,916	6,936	43.6%	8,980	56.4%
Local Government	3,925	2,753	70.1%	1,171	29.8%
State Government	1,269	1,078	85.0%	190	15.0%
Federal Government*	1,002	965	96.3%	36	3.6%
Unknown	33	14	41.9%	19	56.9%
Totals	52,258	27,411	52.5%	24,839	47.5%

*** Federal Government employees are covered by a separate unemployment compensation program and need not report under Unemployment Insurance. Therefore, only a small portion of Federal Government employees are represented here.

Afterword: Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Mining Industry

by: G. Lee Saathoff, Economist and Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

Wyoming's monthly initial and continued Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims showed an unusual relationship compared to total covered employment levels in the Mining industry during 1998, especially the oil & gas extraction industry. For example, oil & gas extraction employment reported an average increase of 200 - 300 each month during 1998 compared to the same month in 1997 while monthly claim counts (the sum of the initial and continued claims) have shown an increase between 300 - 1,100 over the same time period. However, one would expect UI claims to decline as employment levels increase.

For the past few months, the Research & Planning Section has analyzed the possible causes of this relationship. The two underlying theories were that Wyoming employers in the oil & gas extraction industry rotated their labor supply based on a project-based environment and that employees used UI benefits to supplement income during down time. For example, ABC Drilling (a fictitious company) was awarded a project bid to drill ten gas wells in a six-month period. Normally, ABC Drilling uses four rigs in production, however, due to outside circumstances only two rigs were used with four rig crews to supply the labor. The assumptions inferred are that ABC Drilling rotated the labor between the crews and when the crews were not working (or worked less than they were accustomed to; i.e., two weeks on and two weeks off), they filed for UI benefits. In other words, such workers were employed and, at the

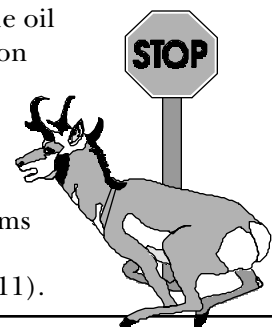
same time, also collected unemployment insurance benefits during the quarter.

To perform our analysis, we utilized UI wage records, benefit claimants data (see pages 10 and 11), total nonagricultural wage and salary employment (see page 15) and personal interviews with drilling companies reporting the highest number of unemployment claims. We examined second quarter 1998 UI claims data and then constructed a database by appending weeks 14 - 26 (i.e., April - June 1998) of UI claims information (summing initial claims filed and continued weeks claimed).

For purposes of comparison, the sum of initial and continued UI monthly claims for the oil & gas extraction industry (within Mining) were reported by *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* as follows for April, May and June 1998: 2,061, 1,259 and 1,098, respectively (refer to the June, July and August issues of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, respectively). It is important to note that these statistics do not directly indicate how many individuals claimed UI benefits or for how long. That is, from the numbers shown in the regular monthly UI pages in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, it is not possible to determine, for example, if a few individuals claimed the entire quarter or if a greater number of individuals claimed a lesser number of weeks during the quarter. In fact, our analysis indicated that within oil & gas extraction, the average number of weeks claimed during second quarter 1998 was 4.8 (out of 13 weeks in the quarter).

There were 864 unique Social Security Numbers (SSN's) in the second quarter UI monthly claims database for the oil & gas extraction industry. That is, there were 864 individuals who had filed with UI for at least one week during second quarter 1998. When these SSN's were matched with the second quarter wage record database, we found that of those 864 individuals, 723 reported wages during the same time period. This means that 83.7 percent of the 864 individuals who were claiming at least one week of UI during second quarter 1998 also earned some wages during this time; they were contributing to the count of UI claimants as well as to the total covered employment levels simultaneously. Furthermore, when we matched these 723 individuals to the third quarter wage record database, we discovered that 635 had collected wages during this time period as well. So nearly three-quarters (73.5%) of our original 864 claimants were continuing the pattern in the next quarter as well.

Therefore, our assumptions that the oil & gas extraction industry rotated labor supply based on a special project environment and that employees used UI benefits to supplement their base income were strongly supported as being correct. These projects ended and the employment levels (see page 15) in the oil & gas extraction industry are now showing a correlation with the increased claims data (see pages 10 and 11).



Wage Variations for Registered Nurses by Region in Wyoming

by: Valerie Davis, Senior Statistician

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) section of Research & Planning is publishing the **1997 Wyoming Wage Survey**¹. The Map shows information that can be obtained from this publication. The six regions in Wyoming are:

- **Northwest Region**, which includes Park, Big Horn, Washakie, Fremont and Hot Springs Counties.
- **Southwest Region**, which includes Teton, Sublette, Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta Counties.
- **Northeast Region**, which includes Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook and Weston Counties.
- **Central-Southeast Region**, which includes Converse, Niobrara,

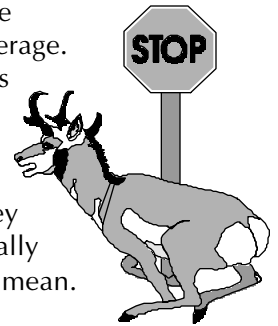
Carbon, Albany, Platte and Goshen Counties.

- **Casper Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)**, which includes all of Natrona County.
- **Cheyenne MSA**, which includes all of Laramie County.

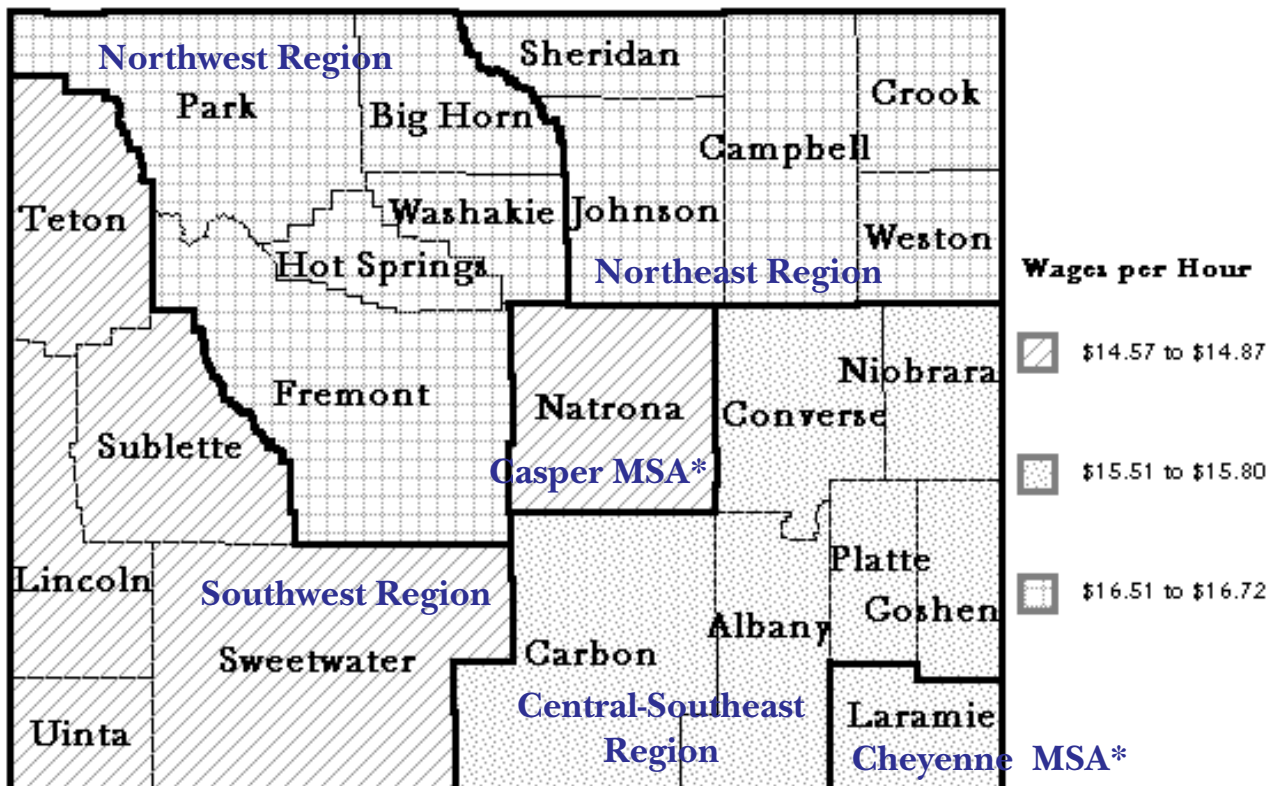
The Map shows the wages per hour in the various regions for registered nurses. These are the mean wages² which can be found in the publication along with entry and experienced level wages. There are variations in the wages per hour paid to registered nurses in the different regions. OES had 82 percent of the employers surveyed in 1997 participate. The statewide mean wage for registered nurses is \$15.92 per hour.

1 To receive a copy of the **Wyoming Wage Survey**, please contact Deana Hauf at 473-3805 (1-800-987-8172 statewide) or view on-line at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/97oespub/toc.htm>.

2 The **mean wage** is a measure of central tendency. It is the sum of the values of all observations divided by the number of observations and is also called the arithmetic average. If some values are far removed from others (outlying), they can substantially influence the mean.



Map: Wyoming Wages for Registered Nurses by Region in 1997



* MSA=Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Thick lines and colored text refer to areas defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: 1997 Wyoming Wage Survey.

Map created on Atlas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by ©Environmental Systems Research Institute, Incorporated (ESRI).

1998 Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment data are presented each month in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (refer to page 15 for data for the

current month). The tables show preliminary benchmark data for 1998: Table 1 for Wyoming Statewide, Table 2 for Laramie County (see page 9) and Table 3 for

Natrona County (see page 9). **Please note that all numbers in the tables are in thousands.**

(Text continued on page 14)

Table 1: 1998 Preliminary Current Employment Statistics Data for Wyoming Statewide

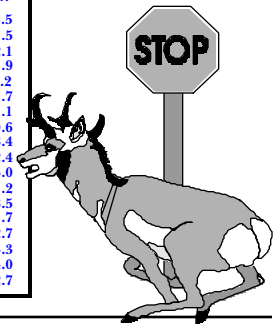
NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	218.0	217.9	219.2	222.6	232.4	238.2	233.7	234.0	234.3	231.3	226.2	226.2	227.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	41.2	40.6	40.6	41.6	44.8	45.7	46.2	46.5	45.4	45.4	44.2	42.9	43.8
Mining	17.4	17.1	16.9	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.3	17.3	16.8	16.8	16.9	16.7	17.0
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1
Construction	13.2	12.9	13.3	14.6	17.2	17.5	17.8	18.0	17.5	17.3	16.2	15.2	15.9
General Building Contractors	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.6	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9
Heavy Construction	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.5
Special Trade Construction	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.1	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.5	7.3	7.5
Manufacturing	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.3	11.1	11.0	10.9
Durable Goods	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1
Nondurable Goods	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	176.8	177.3	178.6	181.0	187.6	192.5	187.5	187.5	188.9	185.9	182.0	183.3	184.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.7	13.9	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.0	13.9	14.1	13.9
Transportation	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9	9.0	8.8
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Trucking & Warehousing	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Communications	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Telephone Communications	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
Electric Services	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Trade	50.0	49.9	50.2	51.0	53.3	55.3	55.8	55.9	54.2	52.7	51.8	52.4	52.7
Wholesale Trade	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8
Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4
Retail Trade	42.4	42.2	42.5	43.2	45.4	47.3	47.9	48.1	46.5	45.0	44.1	44.6	44.9
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
General Merchandise Stores	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9
Department Stores	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.0
Food Stores	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.0
Gas Stations	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
Eating & Drinking Places	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.8	16.7	17.8	18.3	18.3	17.7	16.9	15.9	15.9	16.6
Miscellaneous Retail	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.2	4.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Insurance	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Services	46.4	46.4	46.8	47.7	50.4	55.1	56.6	56.4	53.3	50.8	47.7	48.6	50.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1	9.3	12.6	13.3	13.2	11.0	8.8	6.9	7.2	9.2
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9
Business Services	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.6
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.4
Health Services	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.3
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Social Services	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4
Membership Organizations	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
Engineering & Management	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5
Government	58.6	59.0	59.5	60.1	61.3	59.2	52.1	52.3	58.6	59.8	60.0	59.6	58.3
Total Federal Government	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.2	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.7	7.1
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total State Government	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.8	13.9	13.4	13.1	12.9	13.0	13.7	13.8	13.8	13.5
State Education	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.3
Total Local Government	38.5	38.9	39.3	39.6	40.2	38.2	31.2	31.6	38.1	39.0	39.4	39.1	37.8
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1
Local Education	21.7	22.0	22.4	22.4	22.4	19.7	12.4	12.6	20.5	21.9	22.1	22.1	20.2

Table 2: 1998 Preliminary Current Employment Statistics Data for Laramie County

NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	34.4	34.5	34.8	35.4	36.1	36.5	36.3	35.9	35.9	36.1	36.1	35.9	35.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Mining & Construction	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	30.8	30.9	31.2	31.4	32.0	32.3	32.1	31.8	31.8	32.0	32.1	32.1	31.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5
Trade	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.4
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Retail Trade	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Services	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2
Total Government	11.0	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	10.8	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.1
Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Local Government	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3

Table 3: 1998 Preliminary Current Employment Statistics Data for Natrona County

NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.7	29.5	29.9	30.4	31.3	31.7	30.7	31.0	31.0	31.1	30.8	31.0	30.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.5
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Mining	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1
Construction	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	24.4	24.3	24.7	25.1	25.6	25.7	25.0	25.2	25.3	25.5	25.4	25.6	25.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Trade	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.4
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Retail Trade	6.0	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Services	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Personal & Business Services	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
Health Services	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Local Government	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0
Local Education	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.7	1.8	1.9	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.7



1997 and 1998 Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Normalized Claim Data

by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

Each issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* contains detailed information on Wyoming's Unemployment Insurance (UI) statistics (refer to pages 10 and 11 for data for the current month). Tables 1 and 2 summarize Wyoming's total number

of initial claims filed and continued weeks claimed by month in 1997 and 1998.

The totals in these two tables indicate that both Wyoming's initial and continued UI claims have decreased from 1997 to 1998. The

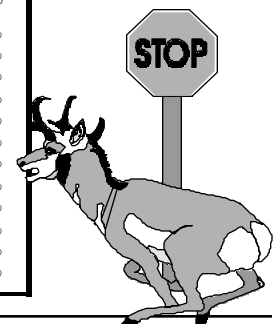
total number of initial claims filed has decreased from 18,200 claims in 1997 to 15,232 claims in 1998 (see Table 1). Table 2 shows the total number of continued claims. In 1997, the total number of weeks claimed was 173,535; in 1998, it decreased to 145,442.

Table 1: 1997 and 1998 Initial Claims

	Claims Filed		
	1998	1997	Percent Change 1997-1998
Total	15,232	18,200	-16.3%
January	2,618	2,930	-10.6%
February	1,829	2,078	-12.0%
March	1,637	1,566	4.5%
April	1,497	1,567	-4.5%
May	954	1,112	-14.2%
June	754	1,031	-26.9%
July	675	951	-29.0%
August	575	903	-36.3%
September	593	760	-22.0%
October	910	1,161	-21.6%
November	1,556	1,950	-20.2%
December	1,634	2,191	-25.4%

Table 2: 1997 and 1998 Continued Claims

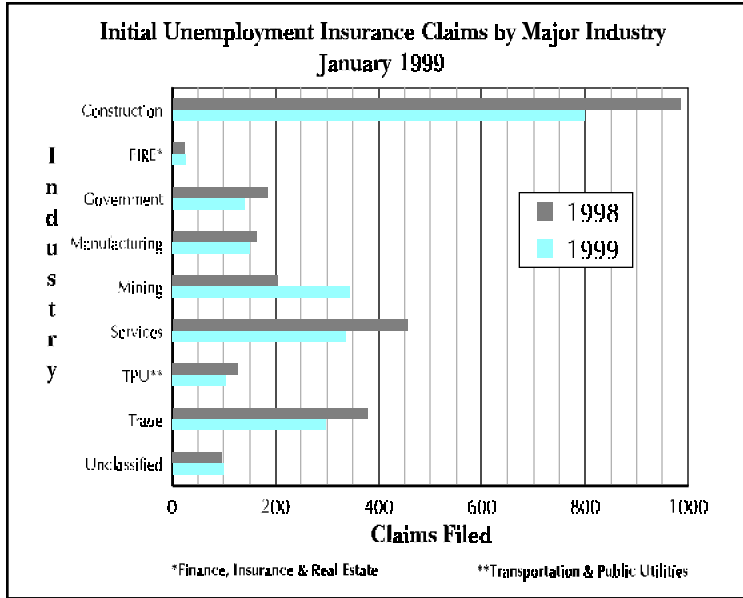
	Weeks Claimed		
	1998	1997	Percent Change 1997-1998
Total	145,442	173,535	-16.2%
January	19,228	26,281	-26.8%
February	20,508	25,636	-20.0%
March	20,493	22,868	-10.4%
April	16,794	18,135	-7.4%
May	11,260	13,007	-13.4%
June	7,844	10,549	-25.6%
July	7,621	8,964	-15.0%
August	6,770	8,181	-17.2%
September	6,029	6,842	-11.9%
October	6,096	7,153	-14.8%
November	9,665	10,503	-8.0%
December	13,134	15,416	-14.8%



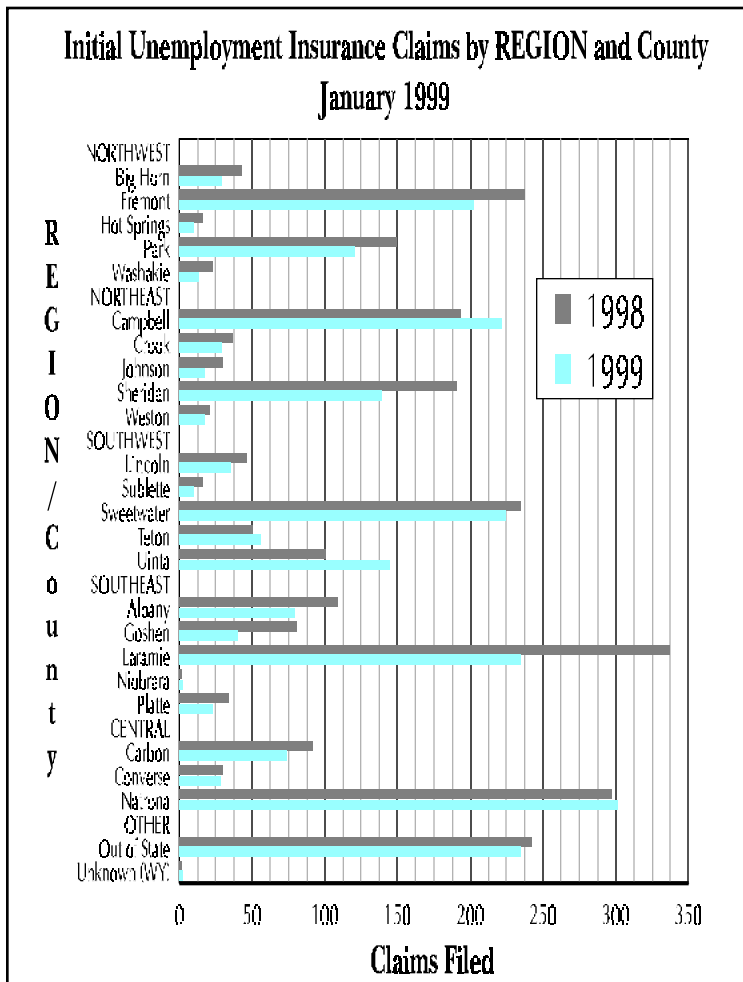
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"Please refer to "Afterword: Unemployment Insurance Claims in the Mining Industry" (see page 6) for an explanation of the continued increases in initial and continued claims in Mining."



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	JAN 99	DEC 98	JAN 98	JAN 99	JAN 98
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,297	1,634	2,618	40.6	-12.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,293	979	1,353	32.1	-4.4
Manufacturing	151	101	164	49.5	-7.9
Mining	344	175	204	96.6	68.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	320	161	180	98.8	77.8
Construction	798	703	985	13.5	-19.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	906	602	1,168	50.5	-22.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	105	50	126	110.0	-16.7
Transportation	87	43	106	102.3	-17.9
Communications & Public Utilities	17	6	20	183.3	-15.0
Trade	298	195	377	52.8	-21.0
Wholesale Trade	42	25	40	68.0	5.0
Retail Trade	256	170	337	50.6	-24.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	27	9	25	200.0	8.0
Services	336	239	456	40.6	-26.3
Personal & Business Services	91	71	117	28.2	-22.2
Health Services	34	19	43	78.9	-20.9
Government	140	109	184	28.4	-23.9
Local Government	53	37	71	43.2	-25.4
Local Education	10	4	19	150.0	-47.4
UNCLASSIFIED	98	53	97	84.9	1.0



	CLAIMS FILED			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	JAN 99	DEC 98	JAN 98	JAN 99	JAN 98
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	236	190	338	24.2	-30.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	133	127	171	4.7	-22.2
Manufacturing	15	12	15	25.0	0.0
Mining	3	10	9	-70.0	-66.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	3	9	9	-66.7	-66.7
Construction	115	105	147	9.5	-21.8
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	92	59	154	55.9	-40.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	19	6	19	216.7	0.0
Transportation	10	4	16	150.0	-37.5
Communications & Public Utilities	9	2	3	350.0	200.0
Trade	23	19	63	21.1	-63.5
Wholesale Trade	3	2	6	50.0	-50.0
Retail Trade	20	17	57	17.6	-64.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	6	0	3	N/A	100.0
Services	28	24	47	16.7	-40.4
Personal & Business Services	9	8	23	12.5	-60.9
Health Services	8	8	5	0.0	60.0
Government	16	10	22	60.0	-27.3
Local Government	5	3	9	66.7	-44.4
Local Education	1	0	3	N/A	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	11	4	13	175.0	-15.4
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	301	201	296	49.8	1.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	158	130	153	21.5	3.3
Manufacturing	24	12	31	100.0	-22.6
Mining	51	14	26	264.3	96.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	48	12	23	300.0	108.7
Construction	83	104	96	-20.2	-13.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	133	61	139	118.0	-4.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	11	9	10	22.2	10.0
Transportation	10	9	7	11.1	42.9
Communications & Public Utilities	2	0	3	N/A	-33.3
Trade	51	27	41	88.9	24.4
Wholesale Trade	12	4	7	200.0	71.4
Retail Trade	39	23	34	69.6	14.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3	1	3	200.0	0.0
Services	61	18	74	238.9	-17.6
Personal & Business Services	19	6	20	216.7	-5.0
Health Services	11	4	17	175.0	-35.3
Government	7	6	11	16.7	-36.4
Local Government	6	3	6	100.0	0.0
Local Education	3	1	1	200.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	10	4	0.0	150.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

data produced by: Krista R. Shinkle, Senior Statistician

"After nearly two years of declines, Wyoming statewide continued Unemployment Insurance claims increased 4.6 percent from January 1998 to 1999. Total unique claimants also increased during this time period (up 7.3%)."

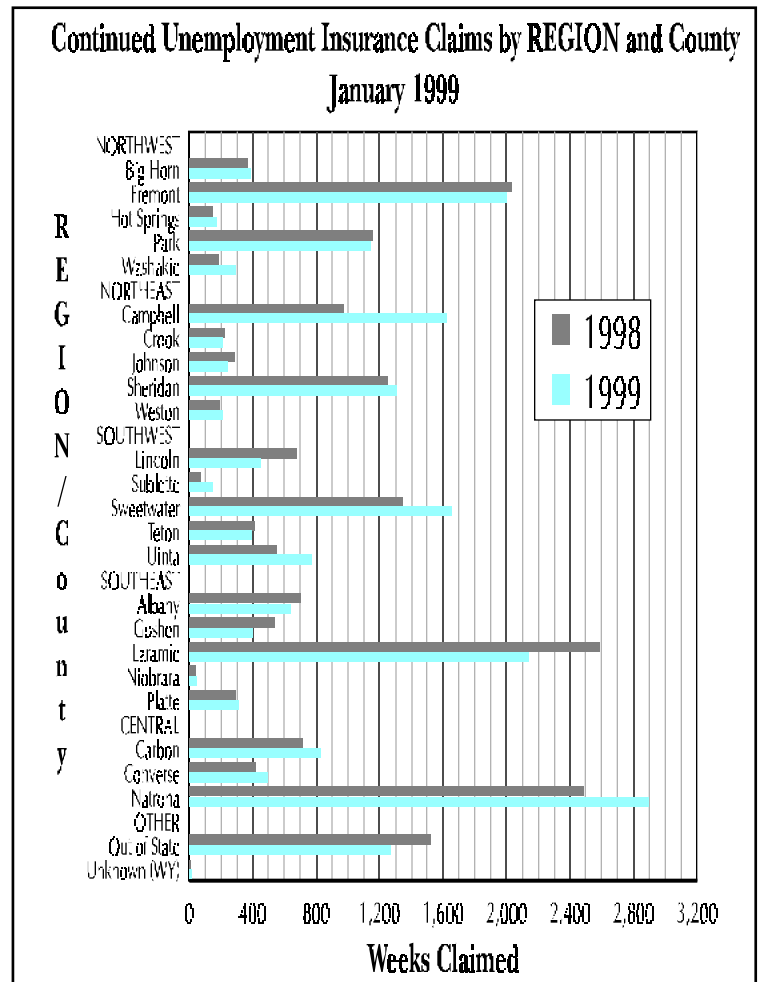
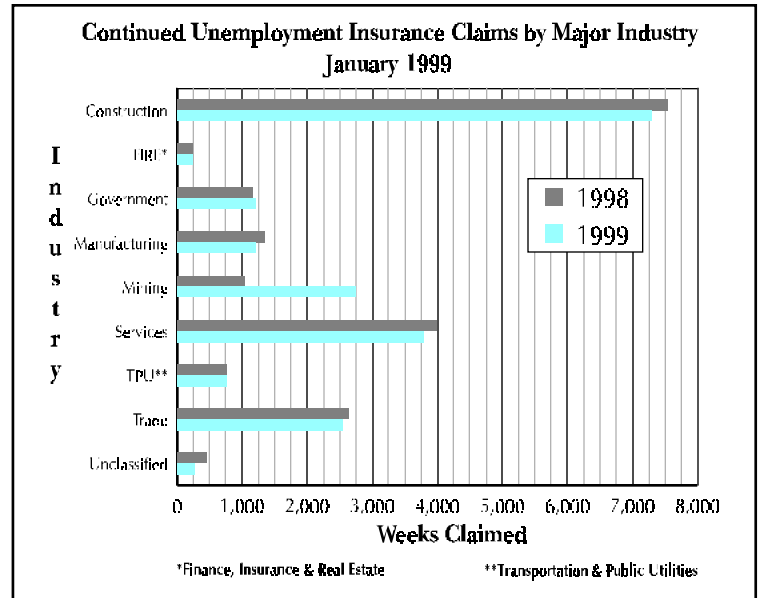
	WEEKS CLAIMED			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	JAN 99	DEC 98	JAN 98	JAN 99	JAN 98
	WYOMING STATEWIDE				
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	20,106	13,134	19,228	53.1	4.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	5,514	4,374	5,137	26.1	7.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	11,262	6,063	9,955	85.7	13.1
Manufacturing	1,206	651	1,365	85.3	-11.6
Mining	2,748	1,503	1,050	82.8	161.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,451	1,300	925	88.5	165.0
Construction	7,308	3,909	7,540	87.0	-3.1
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	8,581	6,851	8,822	25.3	-2.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	756	419	757	80.4	-0.1
Transportation	642	343	565	87.2	13.6
Communications & Public Utilities	114	76	192	50.0	-40.6
Trade	2,547	2,144	2,652	18.8	-4.0
Wholesale Trade	387	302	317	28.1	22.1
Retail Trade	2,160	1,842	2,335	17.3	-7.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	257	229	240	12.2	7.1
Services	3,801	3,231	3,997	17.6	-4.9
Personal & Business Services	1,036	877	1,070	18.1	-3.2
Health Services	372	312	295	19.2	26.1
Government	1,220	828	1,176	47.3	3.7
Local Government	680	416	639	63.5	6.4
Local Education	165	108	166	52.8	-0.6
UNCLASSIFIED	263	220	451	19.5	-41.7

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,139	1,529	2,588	39.9	-17.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	580	496	687	16.9	-15.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,249	762	1,537	63.9	-18.7
Manufacturing	108	74	148	45.9	-27.0
Mining	23	24	81	-4.2	-71.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	18	24	81	-25.0	-77.8
Construction	1,118	664	1,308	68.4	-14.5
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	859	735	1,022	16.9	-15.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	100	60	109	66.7	-8.3
Transportation	70	50	82	40.0	-14.6
Communications & Public Utilities	30	10	27	200.0	11.1
Trade	323	290	343	11.4	-5.8
Wholesale Trade	42	27	44	55.6	-4.5
Retail Trade	281	263	299	6.8	-6.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	60	39	37	53.8	62.2
Services	306	278	397	10.1	-22.9
Personal & Business Services	103	97	179	6.2	-42.5
Health Services	62	52	15	19.2	313.3
Government	70	68	136	2.9	-48.5
Local Government	34	32	62	6.3	-45.2
Local Education	10	9	25	11.1	-60.0
UNCLASSIFIED	31	32	29	-3.1	6.9

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,897	2,113	2,485	37.1	16.6
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	802	678	670	18.3	19.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,675	1,012	1,349	65.5	24.2
Manufacturing	196	100	139	96.0	41.0
Mining	440	320	191	37.5	130.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	366	262	154	39.7	137.7
Construction	1,039	592	1,019	75.5	2.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	1,186	1,064	1,099	11.5	7.9
Transportation & Public Utilities	106	57	81	86.0	30.9
Transportation	92	51	34	80.4	170.6
Communications & Public Utilities	14	6	48	133.3	-70.8
Trade	358	390	346	-8.2	3.5
Wholesale Trade	81	94	42	-13.8	92.9
Retail Trade	277	296	304	-6.4	-8.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	49	50	45	-2.0	8.9
Services	553	460	562	20.2	-1.6
Personal & Business Services	182	148	197	23.0	-7.6
Health Services	116	87	104	33.3	11.5
Government	120	107	65	12.1	84.6
Local Government	105	78	37	34.6	183.8
Local Education	44	30	0	46.7	N/A
UNCLASSIFIED	36	37	37	-2.7	-2.7

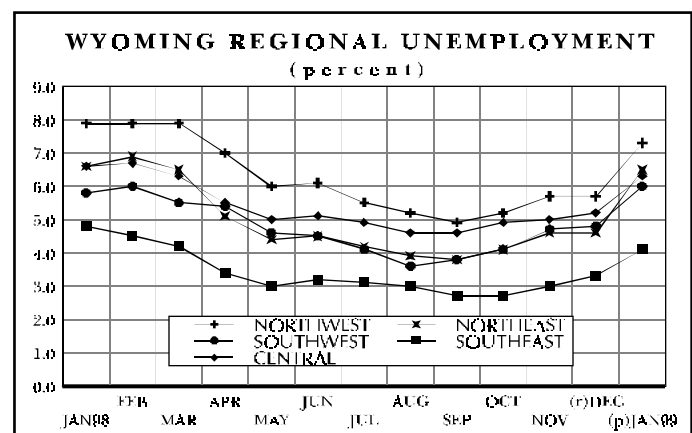
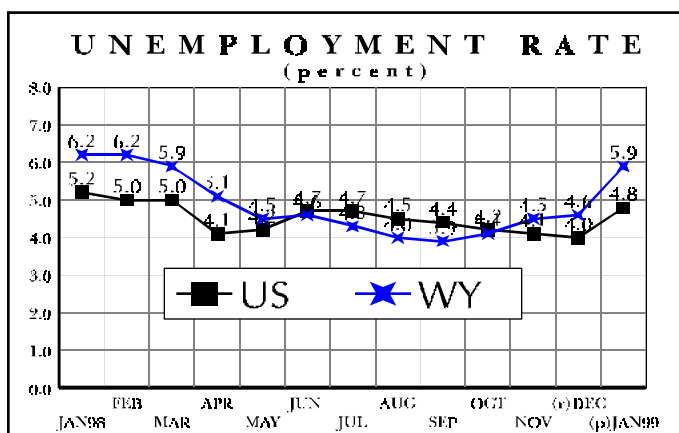


Wyoming Economic Indicators

"Wyoming's civilian labor force grew by 2.4 percent from January 1998 to 1999. The number of unemployed in the state fell 2.7 percent over the same time period."

	January 1999 (p)	December 1998 (r)	January 1998 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	254,749	256,919	248,778	-0.8	2.4
Unemployed	14,928	11,743	15,349	27.1	-2.7
Employed	239,821	245,176	233,429	-2.2	2.7
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	5.9%/4.6%	4.6%/4.5%	6.2%/4.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.8%/4.3%	4.0%/4.3%	5.2%/4.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,897,000	8,220,000	7,702,000	-3.9	2.5
As a percent of all workers	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	339,000	358,000	374,000	-5.3	-9.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,815,000	3,455,000	4,299,000	10.4	-11.3
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$816.05	\$853.89	\$846.87	-4.4	-3.6
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	44.8	47.9	-2.5	-5.6
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$737.38	\$758.20	\$749.25	-2.7	-1.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	43.6	45.0	-2.5	-5.6
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$612.65	\$604.63	\$623.37	1.3	-1.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.2	39.7	40.4	1.3	-0.5
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$564.57	\$582.77	\$561.46	-3.1	0.6
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	42.6	41.9	-3.1	-1.4
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	18,428	16,199	22,873	13.8	-19.4
Benefits Paid	\$3,379,974	\$2,864,181	\$2,880,977	18.0	17.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$183.41	\$176.81	\$173.75	3.7	5.6
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	200,098	207,051	197,160	-3.4	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.5%	1.8%	2.4%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	164.3	163.9	161.6	0.2	1.7
Food & Beverages	163.9	162.7	160.3	0.7	2.2
Housing	161.8	161.3	158.3	0.3	2.2
Apparel	127.9	130.7	129.8	-2.1	-1.5
Transportation	140.4	140.7	142.7	-0.2	-1.6
Medical Care	246.6	245.2	238.1	0.6	3.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	101.7	101.2	100.3	0.5	1.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	100.9	100.7	99.9	0.2	1.0
Other Goods & Services	255.4	250.3	231.3	2.0	10.4
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	123.2	122.7	125.4	0.4	-1.8

(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

"While Wyoming's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) increased from 4.6 to 5.9 percent, the Southeast Region's rate only increased 0.8 percentage points from 3.3 to 4.1 percent from December 1998 to January 1999."

REGION COUNTY	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jan 1999 (p)	Dec 1998 (b)	Jan 1998 (b)	Jan 1999 (p)	Dec 1998 (b)	Jan 1998 (b)	Jan 1999 (p)	Dec 1998 (b)	Jan 1998 (b)	Jan 1999 (p)	Dec 1998 (b)	Jan 1998 (b)
Northwest	44,303	44,431	43,537	41,086	41,891	40,109	3,217	2,540	3,428	7.3	5.7	7.9
Big Horn	5,889	5,758	5,629	5,474	5,417	5,247	415	341	382	7.0	5.9	6.8
Fremont	17,253	17,406	17,031	15,702	16,173	15,260	1,551	1,233	1,771	9.0	7.1	10.4
Hot Springs Park	2,374	2,385	2,299	2,228	2,294	2,164	146	91	135	6.1	3.8	5.9
Washakie	13,760	13,839	13,733	12,946	13,208	12,835	814	631	898	5.9	4.6	6.5
	5,027	5,043	4,845	4,736	4,799	4,603	291	244	242	5.8	4.8	5.0
Northeast	42,754	43,039	41,297	39,957	41,078	38,580	2,797	1,961	2,717	6.5	4.6	6.6
Campbell	19,495	19,326	18,706	18,193	18,513	17,649	1,302	813	1,057	6.7	4.2	5.7
Crook	2,849	2,971	2,716	2,622	2,822	2,498	227	149	218	8.0	5.0	8.0
Johnson	3,485	3,604	3,433	3,322	3,448	3,206	163	156	227	4.7	4.3	6.6
Sheridan	13,508	13,692	13,240	12,639	12,979	12,245	869	713	995	6.4	5.2	7.5
Weston	3,417	3,446	3,202	3,181	3,316	2,982	236	130	220	6.9	3.8	6.9
Southwest	51,372	51,948	49,976	48,295	49,455	47,097	3,077	2,493	2,879	6.0	4.8	5.8
Lincoln	5,967	6,010	6,057	5,515	5,625	5,536	452	385	521	7.6	6.4	8.6
Sublette	2,893	2,972	2,689	2,761	2,847	2,608	132	125	81	4.6	4.2	3.0
Sweetwater	21,554	21,951	20,811	20,091	20,751	19,483	1,463	1,200	1,328	6.8	5.5	6.4
Teton	9,992	10,020	9,860	9,767	9,790	9,620	225	230	240	2.3	2.3	2.4
Uinta	10,966	10,995	10,559	10,161	10,442	9,850	805	553	709	7.3	5.0	6.7
Southeast	68,443	69,359	67,072	65,613	67,100	63,840	2,830	2,259	3,232	4.1	3.3	4.8
Albany	17,098	17,343	16,681	16,641	17,011	16,185	457	332	496	2.7	1.9	3.0
Goshen	6,388	6,585	6,220	6,000	6,320	5,741	388	265	479	6.1	4.0	7.7
Laramie	39,171	39,669	38,727	37,512	38,253	36,785	1,659	1,416	1,942	4.2	3.6	5.0
Niobrara	1,290	1,320	1,126	1,233	1,283	1,087	57	37	39	4.4	2.8	3.5
Platte	4,496	4,442	4,318	4,227	4,233	4,042	269	209	276	6.0	4.7	6.4
Central	47,877	48,142	46,898	44,871	45,650	43,804	3,006	2,492	3,094	6.3	5.2	6.6
Carbon	8,269	8,252	7,918	7,634	7,776	7,353	635	476	565	7.7	5.8	7.1
Converse	6,390	6,458	6,241	5,993	6,128	5,867	397	330	374	6.2	5.1	6.0
Natrona	33,218	33,432	32,739	31,244	31,746	30,584	1,974	1,686	2,155	5.9	5.0	6.6
Statewide	254,749	256,919	248,778	239,821	245,176	233,429	14,928	11,743	15,349	5.9	4.6	6.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.6	4.5	4.9
U.S.....										4.8	4.0	5.2
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.3	4.3	4.6

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

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

NOTE: The 1998 annual average unemployment rate for Wyoming was estimated at 4.8 percent. A 90 percent confidence interval around this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases the actual rate would fall between 4.2 and 5.4 percent.

State Unemployment Rates January News

January 1999

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

by: David Bullard, Economist

"The unemployment rate in Wyoming increased significantly to 5.9 percent in January ... "

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.8
District of Columbia	7.7
West Virginia	7.6
Alaska	7.4
New Mexico	6.8
Oregon	6.7
California	6.3
Montana	6.3
Hawaii	6.0
Louisiana	6.0
Arkansas	5.9
Idaho	5.9
New York	5.9
Wyoming	5.9
Mississippi	5.8
Washington	5.5
Rhode Island	5.3
Texas	5.1
New Jersey	4.9
Ohio	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
Kentucky	4.8
Tennessee	4.8
United States	4.8
Illinois	4.7
Maine	4.7
Oklahoma	4.6
Florida	4.5
Michigan	4.5
Maryland	4.1
South Carolina	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
Kansas	4.0
Vermont	4.0
Alabama	3.9
Delaware	3.8
Massachusetts	3.8
Nevada	3.8
Arizona	3.7
Iowa	3.7
Connecticut	3.6
Georgia	3.6
Indiana	3.5
North Carolina	3.5
Colorado	3.4
South Dakota	3.4
Utah	3.4
Missouri	3.3
Minnesota	3.2
New Hampshire	3.2
North Dakota	3.2
Nebraska	3.0
Virginia	2.9

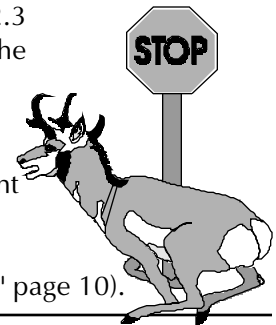
Wyoming nonagricultural employment in January was 219,700, showing an over-the-year increase of 1,700 jobs or 0.8 percent (see "Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment," page 15). U.S. nonagricultural employment continues to grow at a slower rate (2.1%) than it did during most of 1997 and 1998. Careful readers will note that the Wyoming employment growth series in the graphic (see page 15) has changed significantly. Wyoming's nonagricultural employment for 1997 and 1998 was recently revised during the annual benchmarking process. Most of the employment estimates were revised upward. The complete benchmarked series will be available in **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** later in the year.

Goods producing employment fell slightly (-0.5%), while the service producing sector increased by 1,900 jobs (+1.1%). Some of the largest gains were seen in Business Services (600 jobs or 10.5 %) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (300 jobs or 3.6%). Over-the-year job losses were greatest in Oil & Gas Field Services (down 400 jobs

or 6.3%) and Nonmetallic Mineral Mining (down 200 jobs or 6.3%).

The unemployment rate in Wyoming increased significantly to 5.9 percent in January from 4.6 percent in December, but the seasonally adjusted series showed only a slight increase from 4.5 to 4.6 percent (see "Wyoming Economic Indicators," page 12). U.S. unemployment also rose significantly in January from 4.0 to 4.8 percent. The Wyoming labor force showed healthy gains over 1998, increasing by 5,971 individuals or 2.4 percent.

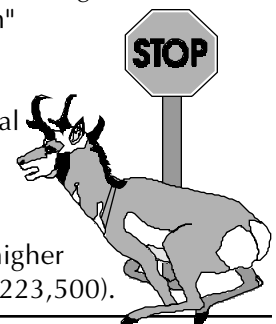
After nearly two years (23 months) of decreasing, continued UI claims showed an increase of 879 claims or 4.6 percent over the year (see "Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims," page 11). Initial claims, however, were down 12.3 percent over the year (see "Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims," page 10).



"1998 Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage"
-- Text continued from page 8)

The preliminary benchmark shows that 1998 annual average total nonagricultural employment has increased from 1997 data for Wyoming statewide (up 1.5%), as well as for Laramie (up 1.4%) and Natrona Counties (up 2.0%). This marks the second consecutive year that Current Employment Statistics have shown an annual average

employment level higher than the famous "Boom" that occurred in 1981. Nonagricultural employment in 1998 (227,800) is substantially higher than in 1981 (223,500).

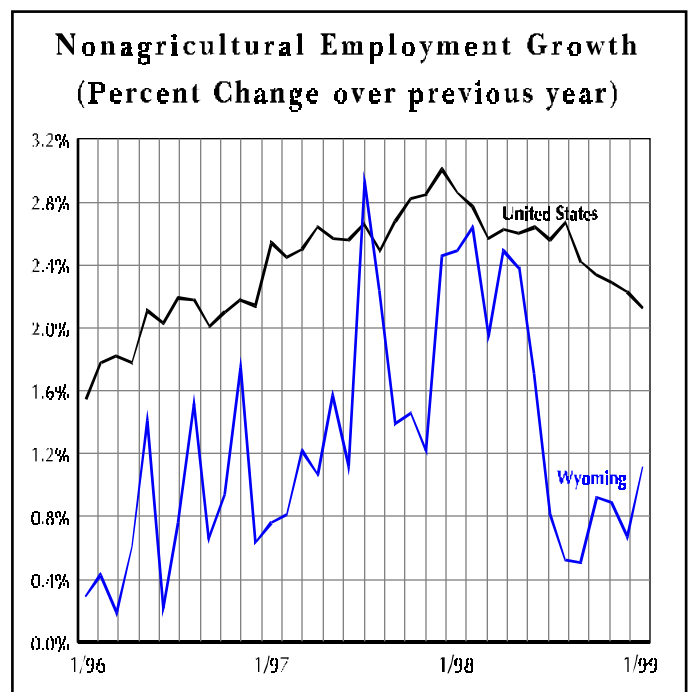


Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

data produced by: Gregg Detweiler, Senior Economist

"Wyoming's total nonagricultural employment increased 0.8 percent from January 1998 to 1999, but decreased 2.9 percent from December 1998 to January 1999. Similar changes have occurred in the past (for example, refer to the March 1998 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*) and are typical for this time of year."

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	JAN 99(p)	DEC 98(r)	JAN 98	DEC 98	JAN 99		JAN 99(p)	DEC 98(r)	JAN 98	JAN 99	JAN 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	219.7	226.2	218.0	-2.9	0.8	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	35.0	35.9	34.4	-2.5	1.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	41.0	42.9	41.2	-4.4	-0.5	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.9	3.6	-2.6	5.6
Mining	16.6	16.7	17.4	-0.6	-4.6	Mining & Construction	2.1	2.2	2.0	-4.5	5.0
Coal Mining	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	8.5	8.6	9.0	-1.2	-5.6	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	31.3	32.1	30.9	-2.5	1.3
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8	Transportation & Public Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.3	0.0	13.0
Oil & Gas Field Services	6.0	6.1	6.4	-1.6	-6.3	Trade	8.2	8.6	8.3	-4.7	-1.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.2	0.0	-6.3	Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	13.6	15.2	13.2	-10.5	3.0	Retail Trade	7.4	7.8	7.5	-5.1	-1.3
General Building Contractors	3.6	4.0	3.4	-10.0	5.9	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0	9.5
Heavy Construction	3.2	3.9	3.1	-17.9	3.2	Services	7.2	7.4	7.2	-2.7	0.0
Special Trade Construction	6.8	7.3	6.7	-6.8	1.5	Total Government	11.0	11.2	11.0	-1.8	0.0
Manufacturing	10.8	11.0	10.6	-1.8	1.9	Federal Government	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.9	0.0	2.0	State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	5.8	6.0	5.7	-3.3	1.8	Local Government	5.3	5.4	5.2	-1.9	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	178.7	183.3	176.8	-2.5	1.1	NATRONA COUNTY*					
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.6	14.1	13.5	-3.5	0.7	TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.3	31.0	29.7	-2.3	2.0
Transportation	8.6	9.0	8.5	-4.4	1.2	TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.1	5.4	5.3	-5.6	-3.8
Railroad Transportation	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.4	0.0	Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.5	3.7	3.5	-5.4	0.0	Mining	1.9	2.0	2.1	-5.0	-9.5
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0	Construction	1.7	1.9	1.7	-10.5	0.0
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1	TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	25.2	25.6	24.4	-1.6	3.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2	Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	12.5
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0	Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.0	20.0
Trade	50.1	52.4	50.0	-4.4	0.2	Communications & Public Utilities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.8	7.6	-3.8	-1.3	Trade	8.3	8.6	8.3	-3.5	0.0
Durable Goods	4.2	4.3	4.2	-2.3	0.0	Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Nondurable Goods	3.3	3.5	3.4	-5.7	-2.9	Retail Trade	5.9	6.2	6.0	-4.8	-1.7
Retail Trade	42.6	44.6	42.4	-4.5	0.5	Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Building Materials & Garden Supply	1.9	2.0	1.8	-5.0	5.6	Services	8.3	8.5	8.0	-2.4	3.8
General Merchandise Stores	4.6	5.0	4.6	-8.0	0.0	Personal & Business Services	1.7	1.8	1.5	-5.6	13.3
Department Stores	3.9	4.3	3.9	-9.3	0.0	Health Services	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Food Stores	5.4	5.5	5.3	-1.8	1.9	Government	5.6	5.5	5.4	1.8	3.7
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	7.8	7.9	7.6	-1.3	2.6	Local Government	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
Gas Stations	4.1	4.2	4.0	-2.4	2.5	Local Education	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0						
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.5	1.6	1.5	-6.3	0.0						
Eating & Drinking Places	15.1	15.9	15.3	-5.0	-1.3						
Miscellaneous Retail	4.8	5.2	4.8	-7.7	0.0						
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.6	8.6	8.3	0.0	3.6						
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.0	4.1	3.9	-2.4	2.6						
Depository Institutions	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0						
Insurance	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3						
Services	47.7	48.6	46.4	-1.9	2.8						
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	6.9	7.2	6.8	-4.2	1.5						
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0						
Business Services	6.3	6.6	5.7	-4.5	10.5						
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.4	0.0						
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	0.0						
Health Services	10.2	10.3	10.2	-1.0	0.0						
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0						
Legal Services	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0						
Social Services	5.5	5.5	5.2	0.0	5.8						
Membership Organizations	3.1	3.3	3.2	-6.1	-3.1						
Engineering & Management	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.9	5.9						
Government	58.7	59.6	58.6	-1.5	0.2						
Total Federal Government	6.6	6.7	6.6	-1.5	0.0						
Department of Defense	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0						
Total State Government	13.5	13.8	13.5	-2.2	0.0						
State Education	5.4	5.6	5.4	-3.6	0.0						
Total Local Government	38.6	39.1	38.5	-1.3	0.3						
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0						
Local Education	21.8	22.1	21.7	-1.4	0.5						



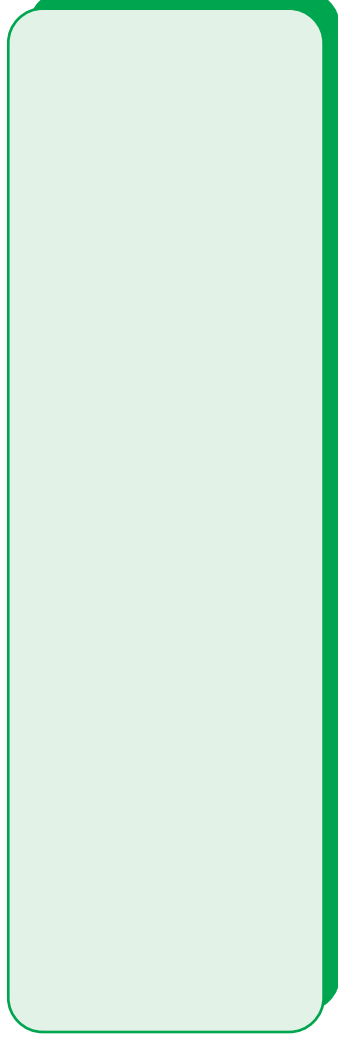
(1) Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.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

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

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Penalty for Private Use \$300**



March 1999 TRENDS:

Over-the-month employment decreases in several industries including Construction (-1,600 jobs or -10.5%), Retail Trade (-2,000 jobs or -4.5%) and Services (-900 jobs or -1.9%; see page 15) were associated with the increase in Wyoming's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) from 4.6 to 5.9 percent (see page 13). After 23 months of declines, statewide continued Unemployment Insurance claims increased 4.6 percent over the year (see page 11). -- **David Bullard**