

TRENDS

High Demand Occupations in Wyoming and the U.S.: Training and Skills Required

by: Krista L. Gerth, Economist and Deana Hauf, Economist

“A Master’s degree is typically required to become a speech-language pathologist, which makes it the most education-intensive of the seven selected high demand occupations.”

As high school seniors don their caps and gowns, many are looking forward to entering college or the labor force. Finding the right job and selecting a major course of study are decisions that require thought and research. Although there is no guarantee that the hot jobs of today will still be in demand tomorrow, Research and Planning (R&P) has prepared occupational projections to help individuals who want guidance selecting a career. The projections are also useful to career counselors, educators, employers, and workforce development professionals. This article outlines the education and skills necessary, training programs available, and wages paid for selected occupations that will likely be in demand in Wyoming during the coming years. Although countless jobs that do not require post-secondary education will be in high demand in the future, six of the seven occupations detailed here typically require formal education rather than on-the-job training.

Table 1 (see page 3) identifies some of the high demand occupations requiring a form of post-secondary education in Wyoming and the U.S. based on 1998-2008 occupational projections.¹ Demand for social and human service assistants, computer support

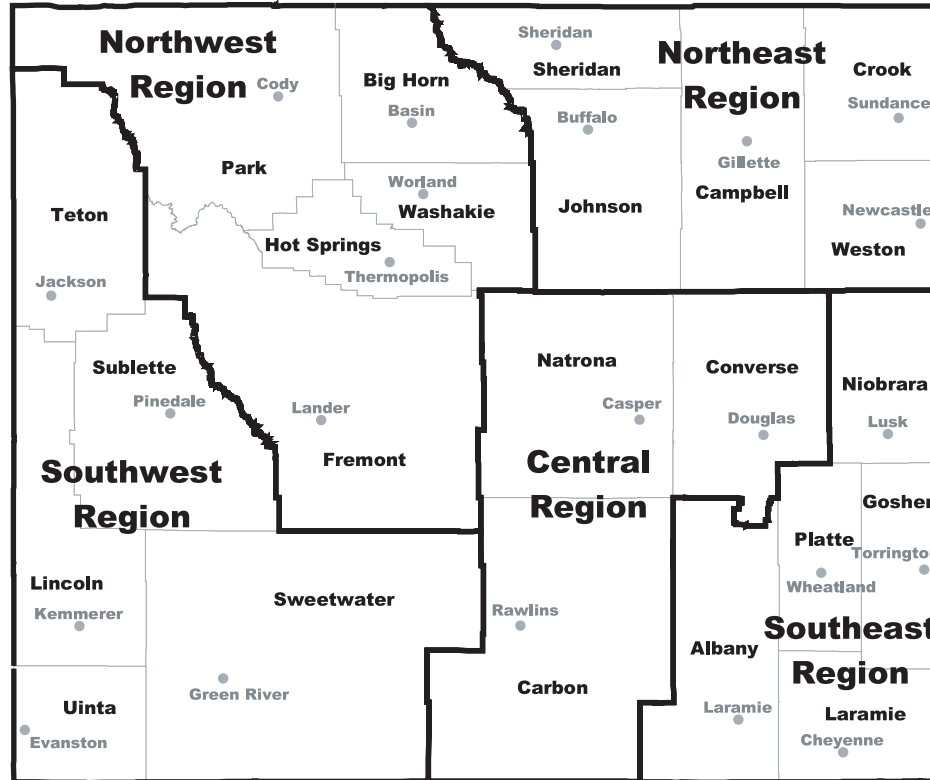
specialists, paralegal and legal assistants, medical records and health information technicians, systems analysts, construction managers, and speech-language pathologists is expected to increase by 2008. The required education ranges from moderate on-the-job training to a Master's degree.

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Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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Table 1: High Demand Occupations Requiring a Form of Post-Secondary Education in Wyoming and the U.S. Based on 1998-2008 Occupational Projections

Occupation	Education*
Social and Human Service Assistant	Moderate on-the-job training
Computer Support Specialist	Associate's degree
Paralegal and Legal Assistant	Associate's degree
Medical Records and Health Information Technician	Associate's degree
Systems Analyst	Bachelor's degree
Construction Manager	Bachelor's degree
Speech-Language Pathologist	Master's degree

* Education required is based on national trends. Additional information is available at <http://online.onetcenter.org>.

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply**, October 2000. Available online at <http://lmi.state.wy.us/out/TOC.htm>.

Research has consistently shown that individuals with post-secondary education tend to earn higher wages than their less-educated counterparts.² According to the most recent Wyoming Wage Survey,³ average hourly wages in Wyoming for the seven high-demand occupations under consideration range from \$9.00 to \$27.27, which are comparable to wages paid for the same jobs nationwide and in surrounding states (see Table 2). In Wyoming, the all-industry average wage in 2000 was \$13.39 per hour.⁴

O*NET

The occupational definitions and the five most important skills for the high demand occupations are drawn from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) System, which is available at <http://online.onetcenter.org/>.

O*NET, which replaces the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, offers a dynamic framework for exploring the world of work. It contains comprehensive information about job requirements and worker competencies. With O*NET, employers of all sizes and industries can access critical information that impacts their bottom line every day.

O*NET currently contains information developed by job analysts using the O*NET skill-based structure. Each skill is classified into one of the following six categories:

- * Basic skills, which help with learning and rapidly acquiring more knowledge
- * Social skills, used to work with people to achieve goals
- * Complex problem solving skills, used to solve problems in real world settings
- * Technical skills, used to design, set-

Table 2: Hourly Mean Wage for Seven High Demand Occupations in Wyoming Compared to the U.S. and Surrounding States, 2000

Title	WY	U.S.	% of WY	CO	% of WY	ID	% of WY	MT	% of WY	NE	% of WY	SD	% of WY	UT	% of WY
Social and Human Service Assistant	\$9.21	\$11.46	124%	\$11.74	127%	\$9.57	104%	\$9.78	106%	\$9.51	103%	\$9.31	101%	\$9.38	102%
Computer Support Specialist	12.24	19.08	156%	19.55	160%	17.61	144%	15.73	129%	16.98	139%	12.19	100%	10.87	89%
Paralegal and Legal Assistant	14.24	18.65	131%	18.04	127%	16.98	119%	14.03	99%	16.88	119%	13.54	95%	18.30	129%
Medical Records and Health Info Tech	10.60	11.74	111%	13.09	123%	10.32	97%	10.14	96%	11.47	108%	11.03	104%	10.35	98%
Systems Analyst	21.12	29.43	139%	31.23	148%	25.47	121%	23.38	111%	25.58	121%	25.76	122%	24.12	114%
Construction Manager	27.27	30.43	112%	29.56	108%	25.91	95%	21.44	79%	33.76	124%	27.00	99%	27.75	102%
Speech-Language Pathologist	19.43	23.31	120%	22.88	118%	20.99	108%	22.45	116%	18.96	98%	16.65	86%	19.88	102%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, "2000 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates," December 14, 2001, <http://www.bls.gov/oes/2000/oesrcst.htm> (March 6, 2002).

up, operate, and correct problems with machines and technological systems

- * Systems skills, used to understand, monitor, and improve organizations and systems

- * Resource management skills, used to allocate resources efficiently.⁵

The seven selected high demand occupations include specific skills from each skill category.

Future O*NET data will come directly from workers and employers themselves, describing the work they do, the skills they need, and the knowledge they use on the job. Expert researchers will collect and classify this empirical information to guarantee that O*NET data are accurate, current, consistent, and comprehensive.

Job Descriptions, Wages, and Required Skills and Education for Selected High Demand Occupations

Social and Human Service Assistants

work with professionals from a wide variety of fields, such as psychology, rehabilitation, or social work, to provide client services as well as support for families. They may assist clients in identifying and obtaining available benefits and social and community services. Social and human service assistants may also help social workers with developing, organizing, and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse, human relationships, rehabilitation, or adult daycare.

Among the five most important skills required for social and human service assistants are two basic skills - speaking and active listening - and two social skills - social perceptiveness and service orientation. Problem identification, a complex problem solving skill, is also important (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). Nationally, individuals in this occupation typically receive moderate on-the-job training, although some post-secondary education may be beneficial. The average

hourly wage in the region ranges from \$9.21 in Wyoming to \$11.74 in Colorado. The U.S. average wage for social and human service assistants is \$11.46 (see Table 2, page 3).

Computer Support Specialists provide technical assistance to computer system users and answer questions or resolve computer problems for clients in person, via telephone, or from a remote location. They may provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, installation, word processing, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Three of the five most important skills for computer support specialists are technical in nature, including testing, troubleshooting, and operations analysis; other required skills are instruction and problem identification (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). Becoming a computer support specialist typically requires an Associate's degree or higher. All seven of Wyoming's community colleges offer computer-related Associate's degrees (see Table 5, page 6). In neighboring states, the average hourly wage for computer support specialists ranges from \$10.87 in Utah to \$19.55 in Colorado. In Wyoming, the average is \$12.24, while the U.S. average is \$19.08 (see Table 2, page 3).

Paralegal and Legal Assistants aid lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. The job requires them to conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

Four of the five most important skills for paralegals and legal assistants are considered basic skills, including reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Information gathering, a complex problem solving skill, is also important (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). Four

(Text continued on page 6)

Table 3: Five Primary Skills Required for Selected High Demand Occupations*

Skill Category	Skill	Social and Human Service Assistant	Computer Support Specialist	Paralegal and Legal Assistant	Medical Records / Health Information Technician	Systems Analyst	Construction Manager	Speech-Language Pathologist
Basic	Active learning							X
	Active listening	X						
	Critical thinking			X				
	Reading comprehension			X	X	X		X
	Speaking	X		X				X
	Writing			X	X			X
Complex Problem Solving	Information gathering			X	X			
	Information organization				X			
	Problem identification	X	X			X	X	
	Synthesis/reorganization				X			
Resource Management	Management of personnel resources						X	
Social	Coordination						X	
	Instructing		X					X
	Service orientation	X						
	Social perceptiveness	X						
Systems	Judgment and decision making						X	
Technical	Operations analysis		X					
	Product inspection						X	
	Programming					X		
	Testing		X			X		
	Troubleshooting		X			X		

* A complete skills distribution for each occupation is available online at <<http://online.onetcenter.org/>>.

Table 4: Skill Descriptions

Skill	Description
Active learning	Working with new material or information to grasp its implications
Active listening	Listening to what other people are saying and asking questions as appropriate
Coordination	Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions
Critical thinking	Using logic and analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches
Information gathering	Knowing how to find information and identifying essential information
Information organization	Finding ways to structure or classify multiple pieces of information
Instructing	Teaching others how to do something
Judgment and decision making	Weighing the relative costs and benefits of a potential action
Management of personnel resources	Motivating, developing, and directing people as they work, identifying the best people for the job
Operations analysis	Analyzing needs and product requirements to create a design
Problem identification	Identifying the nature of problems
Product inspection	Inspecting and evaluating the quality of products
Programming	Writing computer programs for various purposes
Reading comprehension	Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents
Service orientation	Actively looking for ways to help people
Social perceptiveness	Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react the way they do
Speaking	Talking to others to effectively convey information
Synthesis/reorganization	Reorganizing information to get a better approach to problems or tasks
Testing	Conducting tests to determine whether equipment, software, or procedures are operating as expected
Troubleshooting	Determining what is causing an operating error and deciding what to do about it
Writing	Communicating effectively with others in writing as indicated by the needs of the audience

Source: <http://online.onetcenter.org/cgi-bin/gen_skills_page?2> (February 21, 2002).

of Wyoming's community colleges offer Associate's degree programs for paralegals and legal assistants (see Table 5). Hourly wages in the region are lower than the U.S. average of \$18.65, ranging from \$13.54 (South Dakota) to \$18.30 (Utah). On average, paralegals in Wyoming earn \$14.24 per hour (see Table 2, page 3).

Medical Records and Health Information Technicians compile, process, and maintain medical records of hospital and clinic patients in a manner consistent with medical, administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory requirements of the health care system. They also process, maintain, compile, and report patient information for health requirements and standards.

Two basic skills - writing and reading comprehension - are necessary in this field, as well as three complex problem solving skills - information gathering, information organization, and synthesis/reorganization (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). Three of Wyoming's community colleges offer related Associate's degree programs (see Table 5). Hourly wages for medical records and health information technicians in Wyoming are \$10.60. Wages in surrounding states range from \$10.14 in Montana to \$13.09 in Colorado, while the U.S. average is \$11.74 per hour (see Table 2, page 3).

Systems Analysts examine science, engineering, business, and all other data processing problems for application to electronic data processing systems. They frequently evaluate user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. They may analyze or recommend commercially available software or supervise computer programmers.

Like computer support specialists, many of the most important skills for systems analysts are technical in nature, including programming, troubleshooting, and testing. Reading comprehension and problem identification skills are also necessary (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). A Bachelor's degree is typically a requirement for systems analysts. The University of Wyoming offers Bachelor of Science degrees in both Computer Science and Management Information Systems.⁶ Regionally, the average hourly wage varies from \$21.12 in Wyoming to \$31.23 in Colorado, with a U.S. average of \$29.43 (see Table 2, page 3).

Construction Managers plan, direct, coordinate, or budget, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and

Table 5: Wyoming Community Colleges Offering Selected Associate's Degree Programs

	Casper College	Central Wyoming College	Eastern Wyoming College	Laramie County CC	Northwest College	NWCCD/ Sheridan/ Gillette	Western Wyoming CC
Computer Support Specialist	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Paralegal and Legal Assistant	x			x		x	x
Medical Records and Health Info Tech	x					x	x

Sources:

- Casper College Catalog, 2001-2002
- Central Wyoming College Catalog, 2001-2003
- Eastern Wyoming College Catalog, 2000-2001
- Laramie County Community College Catalog, 2001-2002
- Northwest College Catalog, 2000-2001
- NWCCD Sheridan College & Gillette Campus Catalog, 2000-2001
- Western Wyoming Community College Catalog, 2001-2002

systems. They participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, and implementation.

The most important skills for construction managers come from five different skill categories. The skills include coordination, judgment and decision making, management of personnel resources, problem identification, and product inspection (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). Although individuals have traditionally advanced to construction management positions after having substantial experience as construction craftworkers or supervisors, employers "increasingly prefer individuals who combine industry work experience with a Bachelor's degree in construction science, construction management, or civil engineering."⁷ According to Dr. Charles Dolan, head of the University of Wyoming's Department of Civil Engineering, the University of Wyoming offers courses in construction contracting and economics planning for interested individuals in conjunction with its civil engineering program.⁸ Nationally, more than 100 colleges and universities offered Bachelor's degree programs in construction management or construction science in 2000, and around 20 colleges or universities offered similar Master's degree programs.⁹

Around the region, construction managers earn the highest hourly wage of the seven high demand occupations considered here. Wages range from \$21.44 in Montana to \$33.76 in Nebraska. Wyoming's construction managers average \$27.27 per hour. The U.S. average is \$30.43 (see Table 2, page 3).

Speech-Language Pathologists assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. They may select alternative communication systems and teach their use. They may also perform research related to speech and language problems.

Four of the five most important skills for

speech-language pathologists are considered basic skills, including active learning, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing. Instructing, which is considered a social skill, is also very important (see Tables 3 and 4, page 5). A Master's degree is typically required to become a speech-language pathologist, which makes it the most education-intensive of the seven selected high demand occupations under consideration. The University of Wyoming's School of Health Sciences offers a Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology, which meets the academic and clinical requirements for educational certification and licensure in Wyoming.¹⁰ Nationally, speech-language pathologists earn an average of \$23.31 per hour; in Wyoming, the average hourly wage is \$19.43. Regional wages are between \$16.65 (South Dakota) and \$22.88 (Colorado) per hour (see Table 2, page 3).

Other Resources

Statewide, regional, and county wage projections for the seven high demand occupations and many other occupations are available on our website at <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/eds2000/TOC000.htm>>. In addition to providing local wages, the site offers users the ability to identify the industries that employ various occupations and compare wage and employment levels in different areas of the State.

A complete publication detailing demand projections for all occupations in Wyoming will be available this summer. If you would like to receive a copy when it becomes available, call 307-473-3807.

¹Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, *Outlook 2000: Detailed Occupational Projections and Labor Supply*, October 2000. Available online at <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/out/TOC.htm>>.

²For information about the wage difference in Wyoming, see Sylvia Jones' "The Effect of a College Degree on Wages: The Different Experiences of Men and Women," *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, October, 2001, pp. 1-

11. National data regarding the median wage earned by educational attainment is available at <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/income00/inctab7.html>> (March 6, 2002).

³Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Wyoming Wage Survey**, Published 2002, available online at <<http://LMI.state.wy.us/00oespub/toc.htm>>.

⁴Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning, **Wyoming Wage Survey**.

⁵U.S. Department of Labor, National O*Net Consortium, **O*Net On-line**, "Skills Search," <http://online.onetcenter.org/cgi-bin/gen_skills_page?2> (February 21, 2002).

⁶For information about the Computer Science programs at the University of Wyoming, visit <<http://www.cs.uwyo.edu/Information/Undergraduate/UGMain.htm>> (February 27, 2002).

⁷U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Construction Managers," **Occupational Outlook Handbook**, 2002-2003 Edition, <<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos005.htm>> (March 4, 2002).

⁸Phone interview with Dr. Charles Dolan, University of Wyoming College of Engineering, February 21, 2002. Information about the University of Wyoming's civil engineering program is available at <<http://wwweng.uwyo.edu/civil/>>.

⁹U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Construction Managers," **Occupational Outlook Handbook**.

¹⁰University of Wyoming School of Health Sciences, Division of Communication Disorders, **Graduate Program Brochure**, Updated February 5, 2002, <<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/Comdis/gradmain.htm#GradSLP>> (February 21, 2002).



Wyoming Wage Records Summary Statistics Update

by: *Sylvia Jones, Statistical and Research Analyst*

Based on the numbers for the second quarters of 2000 and 2001, there was a small decrease in total records (jobs) and a very small increase in unique Social Security Numbers (SSNs) over the year (see Table, page 9). The number of total records decreased by 0.22 percent while the number of unique SSNs increased by 0.08 percent. This represents a slow-down in the percent increase in both total records and SSNs over the first quarter which had a 0.70 percent increase in records and 0.47 percent increase in SSNs. Total wages rose by 7.05 percent in both the first and second quarters. Unique Unemployment Insurance (UI) accounts decreased by 0.13 percent in the second quarter but increased by 1.72 percent in the first quarter.

Preliminary data for the third quarter of 2000 and 2001 show losses in total records (-6.88%), unique SSNs (-5.51%), and unique UI accounts (-3.94%). Total wages increased by 2.29 percent. We expect these gaps to

close and turn to positive values as additional tax forms are processed.

General Definitions

Total Records - Total number of records received for this year and quarter in the latest wage record download.

Total SSNs - Total number of unique individuals found in this quarter.

One Job - Those individuals who had only one job in this quarter.

Two Jobs - Those individuals who had only two jobs in this quarter.

Three Jobs - Those individuals who had only three jobs in this quarter.

Four or More Jobs - Those individuals who had four or more jobs in this quarter.

Total Wages - The sum of all wages for each category listed under the job rows.

Percent of Total Wages - The percent of the total wages earned by each class of job holder.

Mean Wages Per Quarter - The average total wages per quarter for each category of job. Calculated by dividing the total wages by the count of individuals.

New SSNs This Quarter - The number of

Social Security numbers (SSNs) appearing for the first time this quarter.

Total Unique SSNs to Date - A running total of unique individuals to date, beginning in 1992 (the date Wage Records became a statistical program).

Percent Change over Previous Year - The percent change over the previous year and quarter (for example, the percent change from the first quarter of 2000 to the first quarter of 2001).



Table: Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Record Summary Statistics

FIRST QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	252,555							
Total SSNs	221,142	100.0	\$1,458,069,370	100.0	\$6,593.36	16,007	708,466	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	193,619	87.6	\$1,305,709,759	89.6	\$6,743.71			In Records 0.70
Two Jobs	24,158	10.9	135,612,368	9.3	5,613.56			In SSNs 0.47
Three Jobs	2,923	1.3	14,618,793	1.0	5,001.30			Total Wages 7.05
Four or More Jobs	442	0.2	2,128,450	0.1	4,815.50			New SSNs 1.72

SECOND QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	279,491							
Total SSNs	239,491	100.0	\$1,524,324,135	100.0	\$6,365	16,631	728,919	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	205,269	85.7	\$1,343,240,819	88.1	\$6,544			In Records -0.22
Two Jobs	29,318	12.2	157,285,033	10.3	5,364.79			In SSNs 0.08
Three Jobs	4,183	1.7	20,513,914	1.3	4,904.12			Total Wages 7.05
Four or More Jobs	721	0.3	3,284,369	0.2	4,555.30			New SSNs -0.13

THIRD QUARTER 2001

	Count	Percent of Total SSNs	Total Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Mean Wages Per Quarter	New SSNs This Quarter	Total Unique SSNs to Date	
Total Records	269,892							
Total SSNs	232,878	100.0	\$1,479,556,761	100.0	\$6,353	16,132	747,309	
								Percent Change from Previous Year
One Job	200,920	86.3	\$1,312,291,779	88.7	\$6,531			In Records -6.88
Two Jobs	27,629	11.9	147,323,072	10.0	5,332.19			In SSNs -5.51
Three Jobs	3,742	1.6	17,204,321	1.2	4,597.63			Total Wages 2.29
Four or More Jobs	587	0.3	2,737,589	0.2	4,663.70			New SSNs -3.94

Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter 2001

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

tables by: *Nancy Brennan, Economist*

“Campbell County was the fastest growing area of the state, adding 2,169 jobs or 11.6 percent. About half of the job gains in Campbell County were in Mining (including oil & gas extraction).”

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment¹ increased by 8,245 jobs or 3.5 percent during the third quarter of 2001 compared to the third quarter 2000. Third quarter's employment increase is significantly higher than the five-year average growth of 2.2 percent (see Table 1, page 11). Total payroll increased by 9.2 percent, well above the five-year average of 6.4 percent. Average weekly wage increased by \$28 or 5.5 percent, also above its five-year average of 4.2 percent.

Statewide Employment and Wages by Industry

Table 2 (see page 11) shows that Mining, Local Government, and Services created the largest number of jobs in third quarter. Mining added 2,821 jobs or 16.0 percent as a result of strong gains in oil & gas extraction and coal mining. Employment was flat or down slightly in other areas of Mining (metal mining and nonmetallic mineral mining). Local Government grew by 2,737 jobs or 8.7 percent, but part of this employment increase is related to the reclassification of Indian Tribal Councils from private sector Services to Local Government.² Job gains in local hospitals (200 jobs) and local education (1,200 jobs) also helped increase Local Government employment during third quarter. Services gained 1,664 jobs or 3.0 percent, including 300 jobs in business services, 300 jobs in miscellaneous repair services, 500 jobs in health services, 500 jobs in private social services, and 400 jobs in engineering & management services. Employment growth in private sector Services would have been greater without a change in the classification

of firms owned by American Indian Tribes to the public sector.

Wholesale Trade grew significantly during third quarter 2001, adding 340 jobs or 4.3 percent. The majority of these job gains occurred in durable goods and may be related to increased oil & gas activity in the State.

Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE) added 329 jobs or 4.0 percent in third quarter. Depository institutions grew by 100 jobs, real estate added 100 jobs, and holding companies added 100 jobs. Insurance employment was flat.

Construction employment grew by 556 jobs or 2.8 percent. Employment fell among general building contractors, but gains in heavy construction and special trades construction more than made up for these losses.

Manufacturing and Retail Trade both lost jobs when compared with third quarter 2000. Manufacturing employment decreased by 307 jobs or 2.7 percent because modest job gains in industrial & commercial machinery and rubber & miscellaneous plastics products were not enough to offset job losses in food processing, chemicals, and petroleum refining. Within Retail Trade, large job losses occurred in food stores and eating & drinking places. However, employment grew in building materials & garden supply stores and miscellaneous retail (the industry which includes catalog and mail-order houses).

Average weekly wage increased in all but two major industries in third quarter. State

Table 1: Percent Change in Wyoming Covered Employment and Wages for Third Quarter, 1997-2001

	Average Monthly Employment		Total Wages		Average Weekly Wage	
	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter	Over the Previous Year	Over the Previous Quarter
97Q3	2.2	3.2	6.1	2.3	3.9	-0.8
98Q3	1.0	2.0	5.5	2.0	5.1	0.5
99Q3	1.8	2.3	7.5	5.1	5.1	2.8
00Q3	2.4	1.8	3.8	1.5	1.3	-0.3
01Q3	3.5	2.3	9.2	2.3	5.5	0.0
5 Year Average for Q3	2.2	2.3	6.4	2.7	4.2	0.4

Government had the largest increase where wages grew by \$85 or 14.5 percent. This was the result of market pay increases implemented by the legislature. Construction wages grew by \$54 or 9.6 percent.

Average weekly wages in Federal Government fell by \$34 or 4.2 percent as federal agencies added lower-paid summer workers. Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities (TCPU) wages decreased by \$27 or 3.7 percent as a result of a bonus paid in communications in third quarter 2000 (but

not repeated in 2001).

Employment and Wages by County

As shown in Table 3 (see page 12), employment increased in 17 of Wyoming's 23 counties during third quarter. Campbell County was the fastest growing area of the State, adding 2,169 jobs or 11.6 percent. About half of the job gains in Campbell County were in Mining (including oil & gas extraction). Employment in Construction, TCPU, and Services also grew rapidly.

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2001 by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter 2000		Change		Third Quarter 2000		Change		Third Quarter 2000		Change	
	No.	2001	No.	Percent	Amount	2001	Amount	Percent	Amount	2001	Amount	Percent
Total, All Industries	237,687	245,933	8,245	3.5	\$1,542,086,634	\$1,684,078,342	\$141,991,708	9.2	\$499	\$527	\$28	5.5
Private	186,174	191,326	5,152	2.8	\$1,179,909,785	\$1,285,698,510	\$105,788,725	9.0	\$488	\$517	\$29	6.0
Agriculture	4,061	4,220	159	3.9	18,942,402	20,460,200	1,517,798	8.0	359	373	14	3.9
Mining	17,624	20,445	2,821	16.0	214,053,395	256,956,804	42,903,409	20.0	934	967	32	3.5
Construction	19,569	20,125	556	2.8	142,069,136	160,180,181	18,111,045	12.7	558	612	54	9.6
Manufacturing	11,412	11,105	-307	-2.7	96,244,951	97,379,024	1,134,073	1.2	649	675	26	4.0
TCPU*	11,418	11,428	10	0.1	108,321,727	104,375,619	-3,946,108	-3.6	730	703	-27	-3.7
Wholesale Trade	7,840	8,180	340	4.3	64,324,203	70,315,359	5,991,156	9.3	631	661	30	4.8
Retail Trade	49,780	49,360	-419	-0.8	182,382,704	190,398,707	8,016,003	4.4	282	297	15	5.3
FIRE**	8,164	8,493	329	4.0	61,138,513	66,084,266	4,945,753	8.1	576	599	22	3.9
Services	56,306	57,969	1,664	3.0	292,432,754	319,548,350	27,115,596	9.3	400	424	25	6.1
Total Government	51,514	54,607	3,093	6.0	\$362,176,849	\$398,379,832	\$36,202,983	10.0	\$541	\$561	\$20	3.8
Federal Government	7,913	8,132	219	2.8	83,850,312	82,543,364	-1,306,948	-1.6	815	781	-34	-4.2
State Government	12,081	12,218	137	1.1	92,150,125	106,689,021	14,538,896	15.8	587	672	85	14.5
Local Government	31,520	34,257	2,737	8.7	186,176,412	209,147,447	22,971,035	12.3	454	470	15	3.4

* Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

Natrona County added 1,198 jobs or 3.8 percent during third quarter. Large employment gains occurred in Mining (including oil & gas extraction), Manufacturing, Services, and Local Government. Retail Trade employment fell slightly.

Employment in Fremont County grew by 529 jobs or 3.8 percent, mostly because of job gains in Construction.

Lincoln County added 465 jobs or 9.0 percent when compared with third quarter

2000. Mining, Construction, and Local Government all posted strong job gains, which offset job losses in Manufacturing.

Employment grew in Laramie County by 330 jobs or 0.9 percent in third quarter 2001. Employment in Retail Trade and Services was lower than expected because two large statewide employers with worksites in Laramie County stopped reporting at the county level and now only submit statewide employment reports. Manufacturing employment fell by about 100 jobs, but gains in State Government and Local Government (which

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll, and Average Weekly Wage for Third Quarter 2001 by Region and County

REGION/ County	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change		Third Quarter		Change	
	2000	2001	Number	Percent	2000	2001	Amount	Percent	2000	2001	Amount	Percent
Total	237,687	245,933	8,245	3.5	\$1,542,086,634	\$1,684,078,342	\$141,991,708	9.2	\$499	\$527	\$28	5.5
NORTHWEST	36,746	37,569	823	2.2	\$208,562,456	\$222,664,603	\$14,102,147	6.8	\$437	\$456	\$19	4.4
Big Horn	3,972	4,165	193	4.9	24,984,032	27,584,816	2,600,784	10.4	484	509	26	5.3
Fremont	14,056	14,585	529	3.8	76,120,929	84,058,487	7,937,558	10.4	417	443	27	6.4
Hot Springs	2,051	2,100	49	2.4	10,129,797	10,881,622	751,825	7.4	380	399	19	4.9
Park	13,176	13,243	67	0.5	75,813,426	78,205,518	2,392,092	3.2	443	454	12	2.6
Washakie	3,492	3,476	-16	-0.4	21,514,272	21,934,160	419,888	2.0	474	485	11	2.4
NORTHEAST	36,800	38,827	2,027	5.5	\$253,670,954	\$299,686,317	\$46,015,363	18.1	\$530	\$594	\$63	12.0
Campbell	18,672	20,841	2,169	11.6	151,602,395	193,904,522	42,302,127	27.9	625	716	91	14.6
Crook	1,974	1,966	-9	-0.4	11,536,291	11,832,044	295,753	2.6	449	463	14	3.0
Johnson	2,811	2,808	-3	-0.1	13,459,897	14,619,203	1,159,306	8.6	368	401	32	8.7
Sheridan	11,167	11,013	-154	-1.4	62,481,041	65,836,206	3,355,165	5.4	430	460	29	6.8
Weston	2,175	2,199	23	1.1	14,591,330	13,494,342	-1,096,988	-7.5	516	472	-44	-8.5
SOUTHWEST	54,033	55,567	1,534	2.8	\$374,504,235	\$400,275,703	\$25,771,468	6.9	\$533	\$554	\$21	3.9
Lincoln	5,148	5,613	465	9.0	30,379,053	34,235,663	3,856,610	12.7	454	469	15	3.4
Sublette	2,396	2,584	188	7.9	14,018,379	15,614,854	1,596,475	11.4	450	465	15	3.3
Sweetwater	18,716	18,919	203	1.1	155,776,007	165,852,054	10,076,047	6.5	640	674	34	5.3
Teton	19,681	19,827	146	0.7	124,855,331	128,032,171	3,176,840	2.5	488	497	9	1.8
Uinta	8,091	8,624	532	6.6	49,475,465	56,540,961	7,065,496	14.3	470	504	34	7.2
SOUTHEAST	59,255	59,626	372	0.6	\$365,565,300	\$386,472,257	\$20,906,957	5.7	\$475	\$499	\$24	5.1
Albany	14,289	14,312	23	0.2	85,175,637	89,568,660	4,393,023	5.2	459	481	23	5.0
Goshen	3,915	3,859	-56	-1.4	20,143,175	20,684,417	541,242	2.7	396	412	16	4.2
Laramie	37,009	37,339	330	0.9	237,923,730	252,758,519	14,834,789	6.2	495	521	26	5.3
Niobrara	747	812	65	8.7	3,301,802	3,879,142	577,340	17.5	340	367	27	8.1
Platte	3,295	3,304	9	0.3	19,020,956	19,581,519	560,563	2.9	444	456	12	2.7
CENTRAL	42,013	43,359	1346	3.2	\$269,014,896	\$287,576,550	\$18,561,654	6.9	\$493	\$510	\$18	3.6
Carbon	6,383	6,610	227	3.6	39,305,067	39,644,665	339,598	0.9	474	461	-12	-2.6
Converse	4,413	4,334	-79	-1.8	27,696,431	28,105,320	408,889	1.5	483	499	16	3.3
Natrona	31,218	32,416	1,198	3.8	202,013,398	219,826,565	17,813,167	8.8	498	522	24	4.8
Nonclassified*	8,841	10,984	2,143	24.2	\$70,768,793	\$87,402,912	\$16,634,119	23.5	\$616	\$612	-\$4	-0.6

* The employer may be located statewide or in more than one county.

includes local hospitals and school districts) helped push up job growth in Laramie County.

Sheridan County was the only area where employment fell by more than 100 jobs. Employment decreased in Sheridan County by 154 jobs or 1.4 percent as job losses in Retail Trade were not offset by significant gains in other industries.

Average weekly wage increased in all but two of Wyoming's counties. Wages fell by \$44 or 8.5 percent in Weston County because a bonus paid in Mining in third quarter 2000 was not repeated in 2001. The decline in average weekly wage in Carbon County of \$12 or 2.6 percent is partially attributable to the closure of a coal mine there in 2000.

The largest increase in average weekly wage occurred in Campbell County (\$91 or 14.6%) as a result of pipeline construction and growth in Mining (including oil & gas) employment.

Uinta County's average weekly wage grew by \$34 or 7.2 percent during third quarter 2001. Mining and Construction were the largest contributors to this increase in wages.

More detailed tables on third quarter covered employment and wages were released today. Visit our Internet site at: <http://LMI.state.wy.us/01Q3_202/toc.htm>

¹Approximately 85-90 percent of all workers in Wyoming are covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Some exceptions include the self-employed and many agricultural workers.

²This reclassification was necessitated by a change in federal Unemployment Insurance law, which now treats Indian Tribal Councils similarly to state and local governments. Previously, Indian Tribal Councils were classified as privately owned membership organizations.



The annual **Covered Employment and Wages** summary for 2000

is available on our website at
<http://LMI.state.wy.us/toc_202.htm>.

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State Unemployment Rates February 2002 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.7
Oregon	9.3
Washington	8.0
Alaska	7.3
District of Columbia	7.2
Idaho	6.9
North Carolina	6.7
Wisconsin	6.7
Mississippi	6.5
West Virginia	6.5
California	6.4
Illinois	6.4
New York	6.4
Nevada	6.3
Pennsylvania	6.2
United States	6.1
Kentucky	6.0
Louisiana	6.0
New Mexico	6.0
Colorado	5.8
Ohio	5.8
South Carolina	5.8
Texas	5.8
Arizona	5.7
Arkansas	5.7
Indiana	5.7
Utah	5.7
Alabama	5.6
Montana	5.6
Tennessee	5.6
New Jersey	5.5
Rhode Island	5.4
Missouri	5.2
Florida	5.1
Maine	5.0
Maryland	4.9
Wyoming	4.8
Hawaii	4.7
Kansas	4.7
Massachusetts	4.7
Minnesota	4.7
Oklahoma	4.6
Vermont	4.6
Georgia	4.4
Iowa	4.2
Virginia	4.2
Connecticut	4.1
Delaware	4.1
New Hampshire	4.1
Nebraska	3.8
South Dakota	3.6
North Dakota	3.5
Michigan	Not Available

State Unemployment Rates February 2002 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	13.5
Oregon	8.1
Washington	7.0
District of Columbia	6.9
Mississippi	6.3
North Carolina	6.2
California	6.1
Nevada	6.1
New Mexico	6.1
Arizona	6.0
Louisiana	5.9
New York	5.9
Illinois	5.8
Wisconsin	5.8
Alaska	5.7
Colorado	5.7
Texas	5.7
Idaho	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.6
West Virginia	5.6
Alabama	5.5
South Carolina	5.5
United States	5.5
Tennessee	5.4
Florida	5.3
Ohio	5.3
Utah	5.3
Kentucky	5.2
New Jersey	5.2
Indiana	5.1
Arkansas	4.9
Hawaii	4.7
Missouri	4.7
Maryland	4.5
Georgia	4.4
Kansas	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
Montana	4.3
Minnesota	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Rhode Island	4.2
Virginia	4.1
Maine	4.0
New Hampshire	3.7
Wyoming	3.6
Connecticut	3.5
Vermont	3.5
Delaware	3.4
Iowa	3.4
Nebraska	3.4
South Dakota	3.2
North Dakota	2.9
Michigan	Not Available

Wyoming Unemployment Drops in February and Job Growth Continues

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.9 percent in January to 3.6 percent in February. The U.S. unemployment rate also fell in February, dropping from 5.6 percent to 5.5 percent, continuing the decrease which began in January. Wyoming job growth remained at the respectable pace of 2.1 percent. U.S. job growth was negative when compared with February 2001.

Overall, nonagricultural wage and salary employment grew by 300 jobs or 0.1 percent from January to February. However, large job losses were seen in oil & gas extraction (-800 jobs or -6.7% over the month). These job losses were more than offset by the seasonal job gains in Services (800 jobs or 1.4%) and Local Government (800 jobs or 2.0%).

When compared to February 2001, Wyoming gained 4,800 jobs or 2.1 percent. Large over-the-year employment increases were seen in coal mining (600 jobs or 13.6%), oil & gas extraction (700 jobs or 6.7%), and Services (2,000 jobs or 3.7%). Within Services, significant gains occurred in auto & miscellaneous repair services (500 jobs or 16.7%), health services (600 jobs or 5.4%), and private social services (400 jobs or 6.2%).

Manufacturing lost 400 jobs or 3.5 percent when compared with its February 2001 employment level. These job losses appeared throughout the industry, except in printing & publishing, which was unchanged from its year-ago level. Two areas of Retail Trade remained below their February 2001 levels: food stores lost 100 jobs (-2.0%) and department stores lost 200 jobs (-4.3%).

Oil & gas extraction lost 800 jobs from January to February, but still remained 700 jobs above its February 2001 level. Since its employment peak in September 2001, this industry has lost a total of 1,500 jobs or 11.8 percent.

Across Wyoming's counties, unemployment rates were mixed in February. From January to February, unemployment decreased in 11 counties, increased in 9 counties, and was unchanged in 3 counties. Johnson County's unemployment rate fell from 4.0 percent to 3.1 percent and Niobrara County's rate fell from 4.0 to 3.3 percent. Unemployment fell from 5.1 percent to 4.6 percent in Natrona County.



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

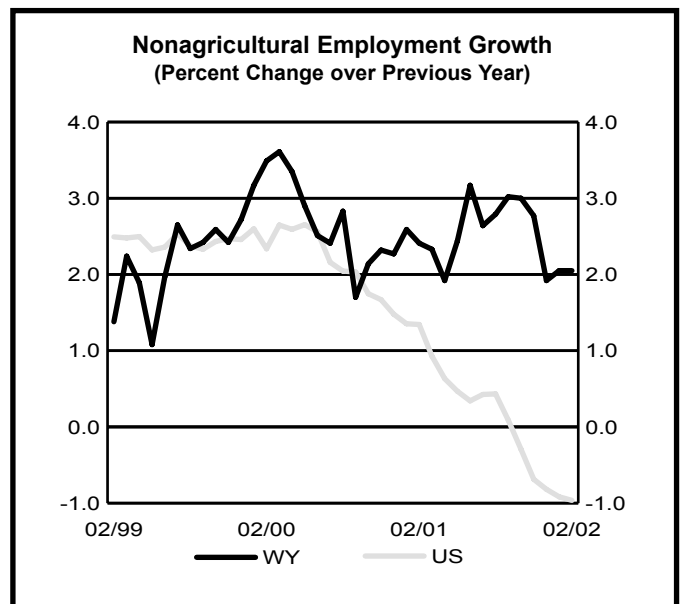
by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

“Large over-the-year employment increases were seen in coal mining (600 jobs or 13.6%), oil & gas extraction (700 jobs or 6.7%), and Services (2,000 jobs or 3.7%).”

WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB02(p)	JAN02(r)	FEB01	JAN 02	FEB 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	238.9	238.6	234.1	0.1	2.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	44.9	45.9	44.0	-2.2	2.0
Mining	19.0	19.8	17.9	-4.0	6.1
Coal Mining	5.0	5.1	4.4	-2.0	13.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	11.2	12.0	10.5	-6.7	6.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	3.4	3.5	3.0	-2.9	13.3
Oil & Gas Field Services	7.8	8.5	7.5	-8.2	4.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.5	2.6	2.6	-3.8	-3.8
Construction	15.0	15.1	14.8	-0.7	1.4
General Building Contractors	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	-2.7
Heavy Construction	4.1	4.1	3.9	0.0	5.1
Special Trade Construction	7.3	7.4	7.2	-1.4	1.4
Manufacturing	10.9	11.0	11.3	-0.9	-3.5
Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	-2.0
Nondurable Goods	5.9	6.0	6.2	-1.7	-4.8
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.7	1.6	-5.9	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-8.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	194.0	192.7	190.1	0.7	2.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.8	14.1	13.8	-2.1	0.0
Transportation	9.1	9.3	9.1	-2.2	0.0
Railroad Transportation	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.6	3.8	3.6	-5.3	0.0
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Telephone Communications	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
Electric Services	1.8	1.9	1.9	-5.3	-5.3
Trade	53.0	52.9	52.4	0.2	1.1
Wholesale Trade	8.0	7.8	7.8	2.6	2.6
Durable Goods	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.3	6.7
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.3	0.0	-3.0
Retail Trade	45.0	45.1	44.6	-0.2	0.9
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.1	2.0	1.9	5.0	10.5
General Merchandise Stores	5.1	5.2	5.3	-1.9	-3.8
Department Stores	4.4	4.4	4.6	0.0	-4.3
Food Stores	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	-2.0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.1	8.2	7.9	-1.2	2.5
Gas Stations	4.2	4.3	4.0	-2.3	5.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.2	1.3	1.1	-7.7	9.1
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	16.2	16.0	16.0	1.3	1.3
Miscellaneous Retail	5.7	5.8	5.7	-1.7	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.4	8.4	8.1	0.0	3.7
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Depository Institutions	3.4	3.5	3.3	-2.9	3.0
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	56.4	55.6	54.4	1.4	3.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7.3	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.0
Personal Services	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	-4.8
Business Services	8.4	8.1	8.2	3.7	2.4
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.9	16.7
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.8	3.7	3.8	2.7	0.0
Health Services	11.8	11.7	11.2	0.9	5.4
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.9	2.9	2.6	0.0	11.5
Legal Services	1.2	1.3	1.2	-7.7	0.0
Social Services	6.8	6.6	6.4	3.0	6.2
Membership Organizations	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
Engineering & Management	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8
Government	62.4	61.7	61.4	1.1	1.6
Total Federal Government	6.7	6.8	6.6	-1.5	1.5
Department of Defense	0.8	0.9	0.9	-11.1	-11.1
Total State Government	14.1	14.1	14.0	0.0	0.7
State Education	5.4	5.5	5.3	-1.8	1.9
Total Local Government	41.6	40.8	40.8	2.0	2.0
Local Hospitals	5.6	5.6	5.3	0.0	5.7
Local Education	23.4	22.7	23.1	3.1	1.3

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB02(p)	JAN02(r)	FEB02	JAN 02	FEB 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.6	37.7	36.9	-0.3	1.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.5	3.7	2.9	-2.7
Mining & Construction	2.0	1.9	2.0	5.3	0.0
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	34.0	34.2	33.2	-0.6	2.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Trade	8.8	8.8	8.6	0.0	2.3
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.9	7.9	7.7	0.0	2.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.9	1.7	-5.3	5.9
Services	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5
Total Government	12.2	12.3	11.9	-0.8	2.5
Federal Government	2.4	2.5	2.4	-4.0	0.0
State Government	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8
Local Government	6.1	6.2	5.9	-1.6	3.4

NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	FEB02(p)	JAN02(r)	FEB02	JAN 02	FEB 01
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.6	32.7	31.9	-0.3	2.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.7	5.9	5.6	-3.4	1.8
Mining	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.5	-4.5
Construction	1.9	2.0	1.7	-5.0	11.8
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	26.9	26.8	26.3	0.4	2.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
Communications & Public Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Trade	8.4	8.5	8.6	-1.2	-2.3
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	-4.2
Retail Trade	6.1	6.2	6.2	-1.6	-1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Services	10.0	9.8	9.4	2.0	6.4
Personal & Business Services	2.1	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Health Services	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9
Government	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
Federal Government	0.6	0.7	0.6	-14.3	0.0
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Local Government	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0
Local Education	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0



¹Current 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.

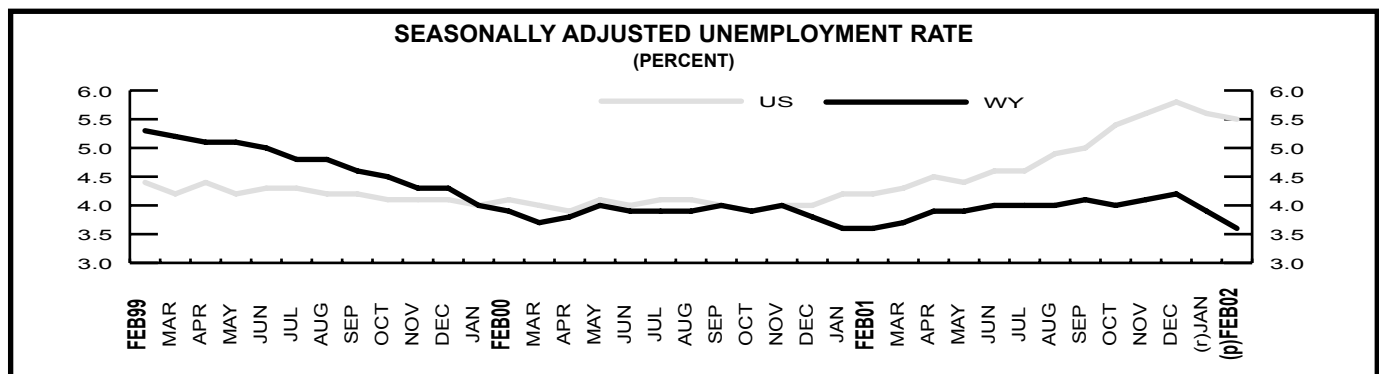
Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistician

“The number of new privately owned housing units authorized increased 41.0 percent from February 2001 to February 2002.”

	February 2002 (p)	January 2002 (r)	February 2001 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	267,269	265,597	265,797	0.6	0.6
Unemployed	12,904	13,307	12,950	-3.0	-0.4
Employed	254,365	252,290	252,847	0.8	0.6
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	4.8%/3.6%	5.0%/3.9%	4.9%/3.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	6.1%/5.5%	6.3%/5.6%	4.6%/4.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,398,000	6,953,000	7,592,000	6.4	-2.6
As a percent of all workers	5.5%	5.3%	5.6%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	371,000	319,000	289,000	16.3	10.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	4,414,000	4,470,000	3,424,000	-1.3	28.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$941.34	\$872.33	\$827.79	7.9	13.7
Average Weekly Hours	43.5	41.5	41.0	4.8	6.1
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$767.55	\$751.95	\$758.44	2.1	1.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.6	43.0	43.2	1.4	0.9
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$630.74	\$616.60	\$622.54	2.3	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	37.3	36.9	37.3	1.1	0.0
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$610.55	\$612.46	\$591.71	-0.3	3.2
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	40.6	40.9	0.2	-0.5
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	18,114	20,212	16,154	-10.4	12.1
Benefits Paid	\$4,006,238	\$4,417,935	\$3,394,032	-9.3	18.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$221.16	\$218.58	\$210.10	1.2	5.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	212,341	212,335	209,726	0.0	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.2%	2.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index for All U.S. Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	177.8	177.1	175.8	0.4	1.1
Food & Beverages	176.4	171.2	171.8	3.0	2.7
Housing	178.5	177.6	174.7	0.5	2.2
Apparel	123.5	128.4	120.4	-3.8	2.6
Transportation	148.4	148.6	154.9	-0.1	-4.2
Medical Care	281.0	279.6	268.9	0.5	4.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	105.9	105.7	104.3	0.2	1.5
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	107.3	107.2	104.0	0.1	3.2
Other Goods & Services	290.2	287.2	277.2	1.0	4.7
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	128.6	128.5	137.4	0.1	-6.4
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	117	75	83	56.0	41.0
Valuation	\$19,531,000	\$10,460,000	\$15,089,000	86.7	29.4

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: *Brad Payne, Economist*

“Natrona County’s unemployment rate fell from 5.1 percent in January 2002 to 4.6 percent in February 2002.”

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Feb 2002 (p)	Jan 2002 (r)	Feb 2001 (b)	Feb 2002 (p)	Jan 2002 (r)	Feb 2001 (b)	Feb 2002 (p)	Jan 2002 (r)	Feb 2001 (b)	Feb 2002 (p)	Jan 2002 (r)	Feb 2001 (b)
NORTHWEST	45,298	45,021	45,378	42,241	41,961	42,273	3,057	3,060	3,105	6.7	6.8	6.8
Big Horn	5,824	5,796	5,831	5,414	5,424	5,441	410	372	390	7.0	6.4	6.7
Fremont	18,439	18,302	18,248	17,100	16,913	16,647	1,339	1,389	1,601	7.3	7.6	8.8
Hot Springs	2,399	2,368	2,339	2,251	2,225	2,229	148	143	110	6.2	6.0	4.7
Park	14,160	14,001	14,388	13,285	13,138	13,577	875	863	811	6.2	6.2	5.6
Washakie	4,476	4,554	4,572	4,191	4,261	4,379	285	293	193	6.4	6.4	4.2
NORTHEAST	46,384	45,862	44,854	44,496	44,027	42,844	1,888	1,835	2,010	4.1	4.0	4.5
Campbell	23,272	22,935	21,206	22,482	22,180	20,499	790	755	707	3.4	3.3	3.3
Crook	2,764	2,768	2,761	2,627	2,634	2,607	137	134	154	5.0	4.8	5.6
Johnson	3,524	3,549	3,625	3,416	3,406	3,450	108	143	175	3.1	4.0	4.8
Sheridan	13,560	13,346	14,018	12,857	12,695	13,239	703	651	779	5.2	4.9	5.6
Weston	3,264	3,264	3,244	3,114	3,112	3,049	150	152	195	4.6	4.7	6.0
SOUTHWEST	52,588	52,263	52,455	49,844	49,468	50,083	2,744	2,795	2,372	5.2	5.3	4.5
Lincoln	6,703	6,684	6,301	6,190	6,173	5,842	513	511	459	7.7	7.6	7.3
Sublette	3,065	3,093	3,026	2,976	3,003	2,939	89	90	87	2.9	2.9	2.9
Sweetwater	20,074	19,889	20,560	19,005	18,767	19,531	1,069	1,122	1,029	5.3	5.6	5.0
Teton	11,965	11,783	11,863	11,574	11,437	11,649	391	346	214	3.3	2.9	1.8
Uinta	10,781	10,814	10,705	10,099	10,088	10,122	682	726	583	6.3	6.7	5.4
SOUTHEAST	73,318	72,827	73,424	70,534	69,922	70,512	2,784	2,905	2,912	3.8	4.0	4.0
Albany	19,189	19,081	19,478	18,746	18,652	19,028	443	429	450	2.3	2.2	2.3
Goshen	6,101	6,180	6,292	5,797	5,854	5,947	304	326	345	5.0	5.3	5.5
Laramie	42,593	42,128	42,257	40,847	40,257	40,475	1,746	1,871	1,782	4.1	4.4	4.2
Niobrara	1,109	1,138	1,154	1,072	1,092	1,085	37	46	69	3.3	4.0	6.0
Platte	4,326	4,300	4,243	4,072	4,067	3,977	254	233	266	5.9	5.4	6.3
CENTRAL	49,682	49,623	49,685	47,249	46,911	47,136	2,433	2,712	2,549	4.9	5.5	5.1
Carbon	7,895	7,907	7,937	7,375	7,341	7,480	520	566	457	6.6	7.2	5.8
Converse	6,210	6,210	6,592	5,925	5,886	6,197	285	324	395	4.6	5.2	6.0
Natrona	35,577	35,506	35,156	33,949	33,684	33,459	1,628	1,822	1,697	4.6	5.1	4.8
STATEWIDE	267,269	265,597	265,797	254,365	252,290	252,847	12,904	13,307	12,950	4.8	5.0	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.6	3.9	3.6
U.S.....										6.1	6.3	4.6
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.5	5.6	4.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/02. Run Date 03/02.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

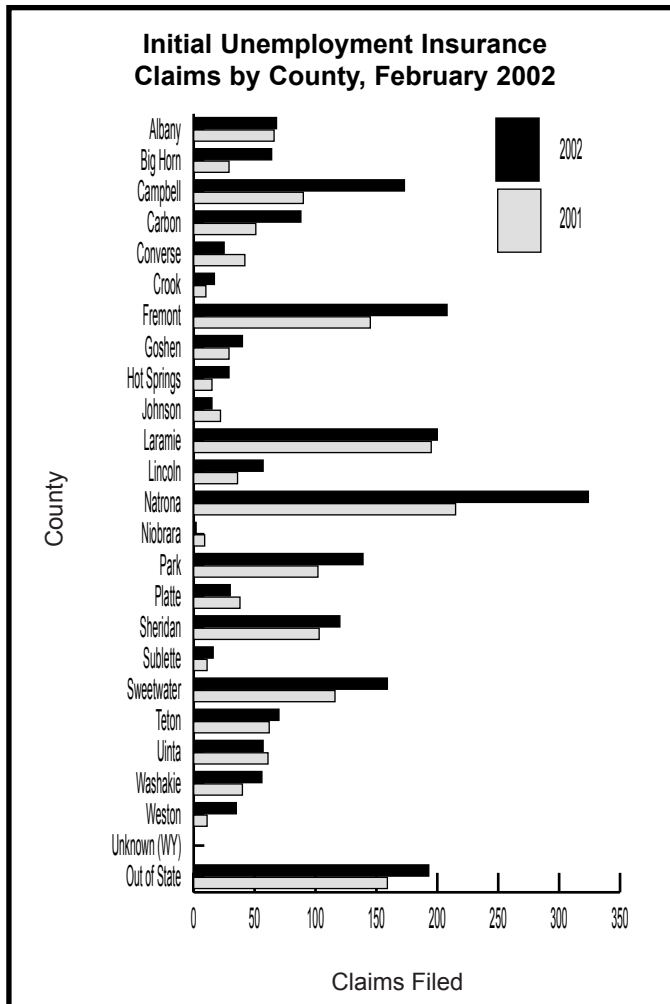
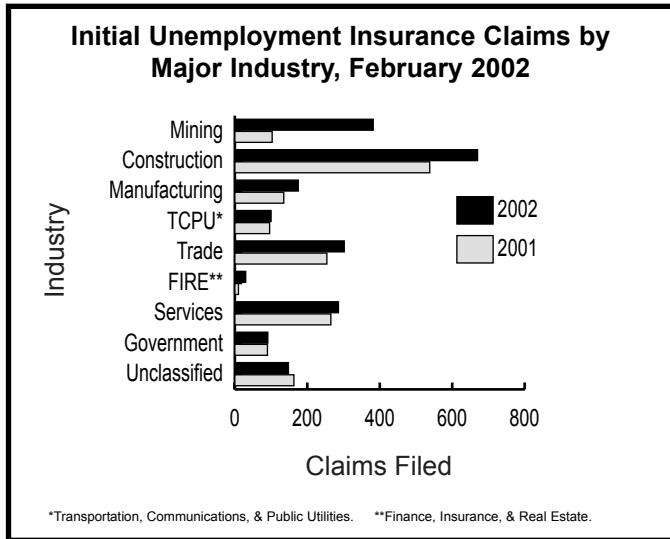
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2001 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.4 to 4.4 percent would contain the actual rate.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Mark A. Harris, Sociologist, Ph.D.

“Total statewide initial claims for February 2002 show a 32.0 percent increase over the prior year. In particular, claims for oil & gas extraction are up by 278 claims.”



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	Feb 02	Jan 02	Feb 01	Feb 02	Feb 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,184	2,978	1,654	-26.7	32.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,227	1,535	776	-20.1	58.1
Mining	382	417	103	-8.4	270.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	360	385	82	-6.5	339.0
Construction	670	965	538	-30.6	24.5
Manufacturing	175	153	135	14.4	29.6
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	809	1,212	715	-33.3	13.1
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	100	133	96	-24.8	4.2
Transportation	86	104	82	-17.3	4.9
Communications & Public Utilities	14	29	14	-51.7	0.0
Trade	302	380	254	-20.5	18.9
Wholesale Trade	51	42	52	21.4	-1.9
Retail Trade	251	338	202	-25.7	24.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	30	16	10	87.5	200.0
Services	286	474	265	-39.7	7.9
Personal & Business Services	82	160	79	-48.8	3.8
Health Services	32	25	30	28.0	6.7
Government	91	209	90	-56.5	1.1
Local Government	36	78	33	-53.8	9.1
Local Education	4	10	10	-60.0	-60.0
UNCLASSIFIED	148	231	163	-35.9	-9.2

LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	197	339	195	-41.9	1.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	84	148	92	-43.2	-8.7
Mining	5	3	1	66.7	400.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	5	1	0	400.0	0.0
Construction	67	130	80	-48.5	-16.3
Manufacturing	12	15	11	-20.0	9.1
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	94	171	89	-45.0	5.6
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	13	25	14	-48.0	-7.1
Transportation	10	15	10	-33.3	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	3	10	4	-70.0	-25.0
Trade	35	64	35	-45.3	0.0
Wholesale Trade	6	6	9	0.0	-33.3
Retail Trade	29	58	26	-50.0	11.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	5	2	1	150.0	400.0
Services	33	63	28	-47.6	17.9
Personal & Business Services	16	32	16	-50.0	0.0
Health Services	3	3	3	0.0	0.0
Government	8	17	11	-52.9	-27.3
Local Government	2	7	2	-71.4	0.0
Local Education	0	1	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	19	20	14	-5.0	35.7

NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	322	379	214	-15.0	50.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	179	213	101	-16.0	77.2
Mining	65	65	10	0.0	550.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	57	60	8	-5.0	612.5
Construction	96	132	79	-27.3	21.5
Manufacturing	18	16	12	12.5	50.0
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	134	156	100	-14.1	34.0
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	11	15	6	-26.7	83.3
Transportation	8	12	6	-33.3	33.3
Communications & Public Utilities	3	3	0	0.0	0.0
Trade	61	56	48	8.9	27.1
Wholesale Trade	17	8	17	112.5	0.0
Retail Trade	44	48	31	-8.3	41.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6	3	1	100.0	500.0
Services	49	69	40	-29.0	22.5
Personal & Business Services	13	28	15	-53.6	-13.3
Health Services	8	3	8	166.7	0.0
Government	7	13	5	-46.2	40.0
Local Government	4	10	0	-60.0	0.0
Local Education	0	3	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	9	10	13	-10.0	-30.8

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims by: Mark A. Harris, Sociologist, Ph.D.

“Total statewide continued claims for February were up 13.4 percent over the prior year. As with initial claims, much of the increase is in oil & gas extraction.”

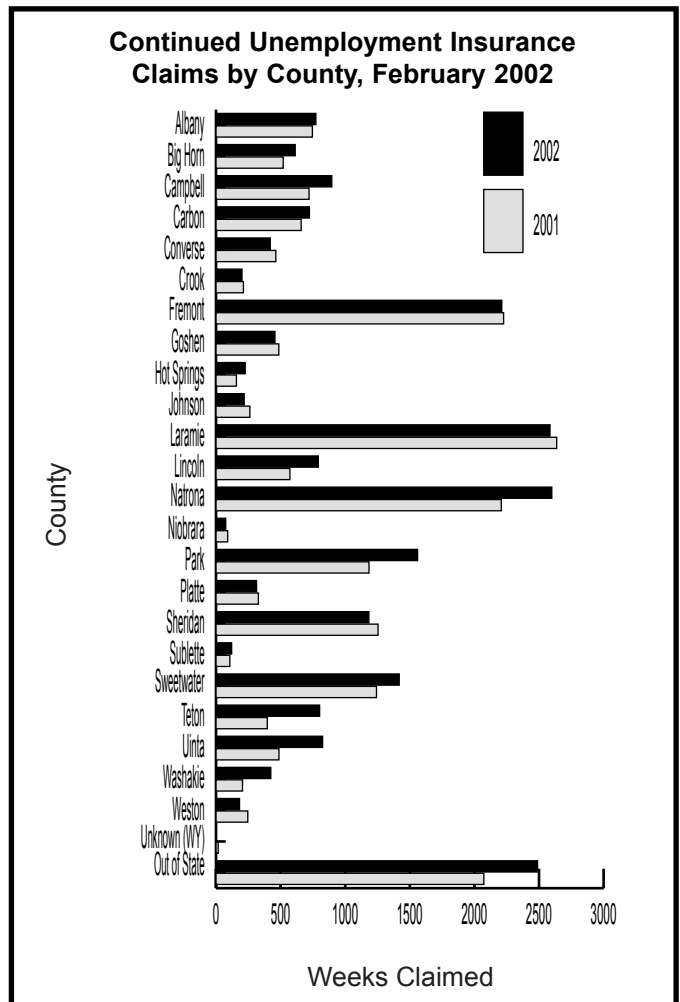
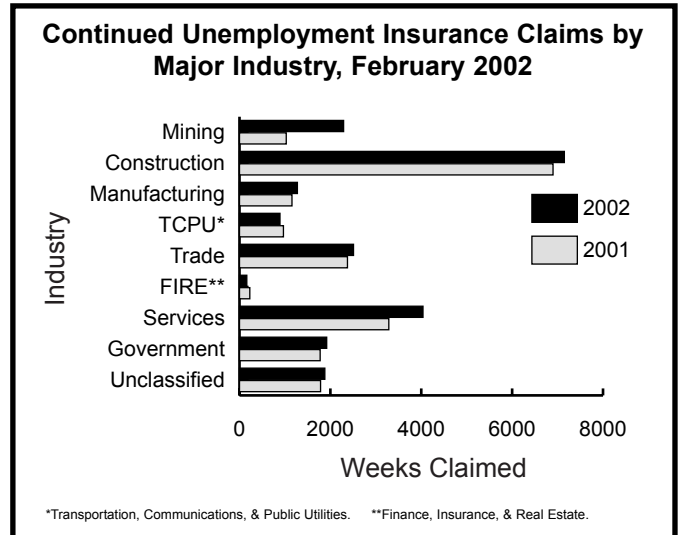
WYOMING STATEWIDE	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change Weeks Claimed	
	Feb 02	Jan 02	Feb 01	Jan 02	Feb 01
	Feb 02	Jan 02	Feb 01	Feb 02	Feb 01
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	22,110,567	19,499		7.5	13.4
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,759	5,761	5,890	17.3	14.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	10,714	9,512	9,084	12.6	17.9
Mining	2,291	1,884	1,029	21.6	122.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,993	1,563	600	27.5	232.2
Construction	7,149	6,523	6,900	9.6	3.6
Manufacturing	1,274	1,105	1,155	15.3	10.3
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	9,518	9,219	8,631	3.2	10.3
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	891	846	967	5.3	-7.9
Transportation	685	670	669	2.2	2.4
Communications & Public Utilities	206	176	298	17.0	-30.9
Trade	2,509	2,434	2,376	3.1	5.6
Wholesale Trade	376	378	304	-0.5	23.7
Retail Trade	2,133	2,056	2,072	3.7	2.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	161	152	227	5.9	-29.1
Services	4,038	4,026	3,286	0.3	22.9
Personal & Business Services	1,344	1,296	1,015	3.7	32.4
Health Services	246	258	266	-4.7	-7.5
Government	1,919	1,761	1,775	9.0	8.1
Local Government	590	559	482	5.5	22.4
Local Education	102	117	116	-12.8	-12.1
UNCLASSIFIED	1,878	1,836	1,784	2.3	5.3

LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,585	2,525	2,637	2.4	-2.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	761	698	766	9.0	-0.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,132	1,106	1,250	2.4	-9.4
Mining	23	20	37	15.0	-37.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	6	0	0	0.0	0.0
Construction	976	966	1,100	1.0	-11.3
Manufacturing	133	120	113	10.8	17.7
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,247	1,242	1,213	0.4	2.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	193	208	275	-7.2	-29.8
Transportation	115	129	104	-10.9	10.6
Communications & Public Utilities	78	79	171	-1.3	-54.4
Trade	393	373	347	5.4	13.3
Wholesale Trade	61	47	42	29.8	45.2
Retail Trade	332	326	305	1.8	8.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	36	40	50	-10.0	-28.0
Services	442	445	417	-0.7	6.0
Personal & Business Services	225	218	175	3.2	28.6
Health Services	37	36	69	2.8	-46.4
Government	183	176	124	4.0	47.6
Local Government	51	46	35	10.9	45.7
Local Education	13	14	13	-7.1	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	206	177	174	16.4	18.4

NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	2,598	2,605	2,207	-0.3	17.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	832	753	706	10.5	17.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,372	1,376	1,152	-0.3	19.1
Mining	368	322	173	14.3	112.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	339	293	129	15.7	162.8
Construction	889	934	872	-4.8	1.9
Manufacturing	115	120	107	-4.2	7.5
TOTAL SERVICES PRODUCING	1,121	1,135	944	-1.2	18.8
Transportation, Comm., & Pub. Utilities	107	105	113	1.9	-5.3
Transportation	81	88	66	-8.0	22.7
Communications & Public Utilities	26	17	47	52.9	-44.7
Trade	406	403	288	0.7	41.0
Wholesale Trade	77	90	76	-14.4	1.3
Retail Trade	329	313	212	5.1	55.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	25	17	40	47.1	-37.5
Services	505	512	358	-1.4	41.1
Personal & Business Services	187	202	130	-7.4	43.8
Health Services	24	58	48	-58.6	-50.0
Government	78	98	145	-20.4	-46.2
Local Government	46	55	35	-16.4	31.4
Local Education	5	13	9	-61.5	-44.4
UNCLASSIFIED	105	94	111	11.7	-5.4



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