

TRENDS

An Examination of Short-Term Employment Projections Accuracy

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It is often useful to review past employment projections to understand where errors occurred and how to improve results. With the availability of Wyoming covered employment data from second quarter 2003, such assessments can be made using the short-term (eight-quarter) projections developed during the 2001-2002 projections cycle. The results indicate that the statewide mean absolute projection error for all jobs covered by unemployment insurance was 1.1 percent. However, projection accuracy varied greatly by industry.

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Employment is required to produce both short- and long-term employment projections under contract with the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. Short-term employment projections forecast jobs by industry eight quarters into the future. In this article we present comparisons between short-term industry employment projections for second quarter 2003 (2003Q2) and actual employment for the same quarter with a primary focus on industries having 5,000 or more jobs.

percent of all jobs worked in Wyoming exclusive of the self-employed, unpaid family workers, some federal government workers, and most railroad employees; and thus provide an accurate picture of employment levels and changes within the state. These data sets form a time series of UI covered

(Text continued on page 3)

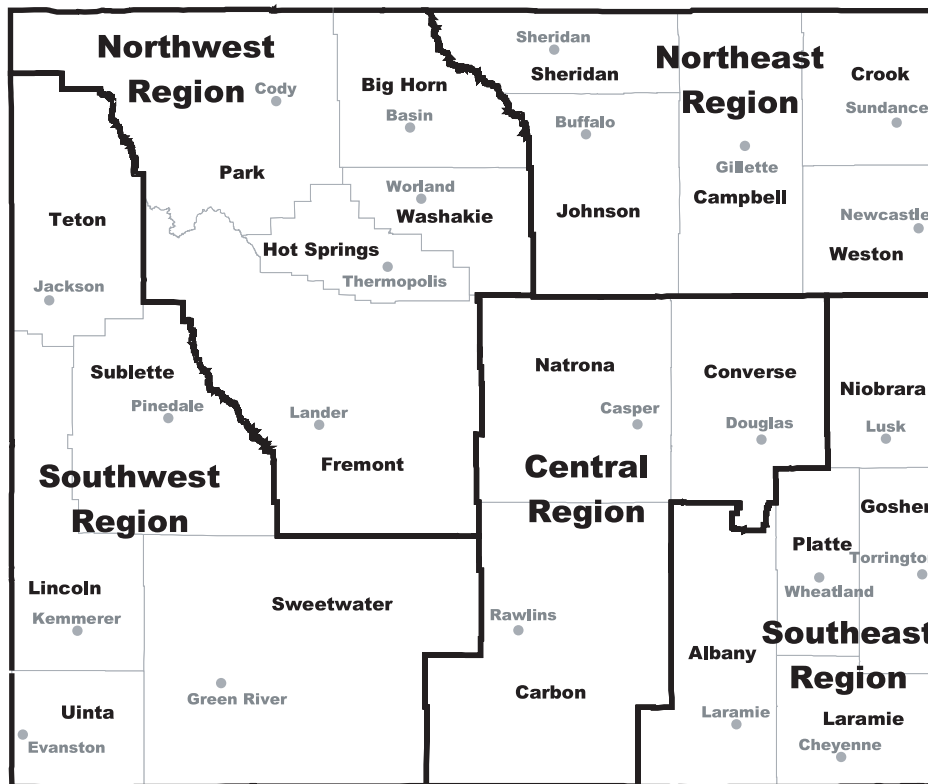
Background

Each quarter, employers who are liable for Unemployment Insurance (UI) report the number of jobs and employee wages in each firm to the Department of Employment through UI tax reports. These data are then compiled into a data set known as the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW; U.S. Department of Labor, 2004). QCEW data represent approximately 95

IN THIS ISSUE:

An Examination of Short-Term Employment Projections Accuracy	1
Wyoming Labor Market in 2003	6
Employment Growth Continues in March	12
State Unemployment Rates	13
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	14
Economic Indicators	16
County Unemployment Rates	17
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	18

Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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employment used to develop short- and long-term projections.

In 2001-2002, R&P produced statewide short-term employment projections at the 2-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) level for 75 industries (Leonard, 2002). We used 2001Q2 as the base period and projected the 2003Q2 employment.

Methodology

Projection values and actual values from 2003Q2 were compared using three basic measures of forecast accuracy: absolute percentage error, bias, and directional analysis. Absolute percentage error is calculated by summing the absolute value of error for each 2-digit SIC code and dividing it by the total actual employment during the projected period. In simple terms, the absolute value of error represents how far off,

in employment (either more or less), the projections were. Absolute percentage error is simply this figure expressed as a percentage of total employment. The second accuracy measurement utilized in this analysis is bias. Bias is defined as the average amount of projection error observed in each industry (i.e., the number of jobs). In other words, how far off, on average, were the employment projections across industries. Although bias and absolute percentage error provide valuable insights into projection accuracy, it is also important that the anticipated changes [either positive or negative] in employment in both actual and projected values are in the same direction. A matched projection is one where the projected and actual employment changes occurred in the same direction (i.e., employment was projected to grow and actually grew), while an unmatched projection moves in the opposite direction of actual changes

Table 1: Wyoming Short-Term Employment Projections by 2-Digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and Absolute Error, 2nd Quarter 2001 (2001Q2) to 2003Q2

Select Industries ^a	Base Quarter Employment 2001Q2	Projected Employment 2003Q2	Actual Employment 2003Q2	Absolute Projection Error	Absolute Percentage Error
Coal Mining (SIC 12)	4,653	4,657	5,240	583	11.1%
Oil & Gas Extraction (SIC 13)	11,638	12,285	11,270	1,015	9.0%
General Building Contractors (SIC 15)	4,314	4,647	4,137	510	12.3%
Heavy Construction, Ex. Building (SIC 16)	5,288	5,556	5,515	41	0.7%
Special Trade Contractors (SIC 17)	8,652	9,444	8,943	501	5.6%
General Merchandise Stores (SIC 53)	6,000	5,659	5,926	267	4.5%
Food Stores (SIC 54)	5,246	5,250	4,882	368	7.5%
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations (SIC 55)	8,321	8,547	7,922	625	7.9%
Eating & Drinking Places (SIC 58)	17,328	17,499	17,508	9	0.1%
Miscellaneous Retail (SIC 59)	5,822	6,081	5,661	420	7.4%
Hotels & Other Lodging Places (SIC 70)	9,810	10,000	10,887	887	8.1%
Business Services (SIC 73)	8,688	9,488	8,711	777	8.9%
Health Services (SIC 80)	18,545	19,967	19,442	525	2.7%
Educational Services (SIC 82)	25,693	26,132	26,276	144	0.5%
Social Services (SIC 83)	7,279	7,895	8,103	208	2.6%
State Government (Public Administration)	7,502	7,541	7,985	444	5.6%
Local Government (Public Administration)	10,232	10,527	10,452	75	0.7%
Subtotal	165,011	171,175	168,860	7,399	4.38%
STATEWIDE TOTAL^b, All Industries	238,753	246,519	243,798	2,721	1.1%

^aBased on 2-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code.

^bThe statewide absolute projection error is the difference between the statewide actual employment total and the statewide projected employment total in 2003Q2 and is *not* the sum of the absolute projection error in the two-digit SIC industries.

$$\text{Absolute Percentage Error} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n |e_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^n E_i}$$

Where e = the amount of error for industry (or total employment) and E = total actual employment in 2003Q2.

N/A - Not Applicable.

(i.e., employment was projected to grow but actually fell).

Findings

Table 1 (see page 3) displays projection data for Wyoming and 17 selected industries based on employment and relative importance in the state's economy. Employment in these industries represented 69.1 percent (165,011 jobs) of UI covered employment in 2001Q2 (238,753 jobs) and 69.3 percent (168,860 jobs) of UI covered employment in 2003Q2 (243,798 jobs). When all 2-digit SIC projections were summed and compared to the actual 2-digit SIC total, the difference was 1.1 percent or 2,721 jobs. Accuracy, as measured by absolute

percentage error, varied between 0.1 percent (eating & drinking places) to 12.3 percent (general building contractors). Absolute projection errors (measured in jobs) varied from a low of 9 jobs in eating & drinking places to a high of 1,015 jobs in oil & gas extraction. Table 2 shows projection results when the industry data are aggregated to the 10 major SIC industries. Absolute percentage errors ranged from a low of 0.2 percent in Services to a high of 6.0 percent in Manufacturing. Absolute errors (in jobs) ranged from a low of 126 in Wholesale Trade to a high of 1,278 in Retail Trade.

A summary of projection accuracy measures is shown in Table 3. Here the accuracy measures discussed previously are displayed at the 2-digit SIC level and at the major SIC industry level. The absolute percentage error at the 2-digit SIC level was 5.0 percent, while the absolute percentage error at the major industry level was 2.1 percent. The projection bias at the major industry level was 272.1 jobs, while the bias at the 2-digit level was much lower at 36.3 jobs.

Tables 4 and 5 (see page 5) display the results of directional analysis. Table 4 shows that of the 75 industries projected, 52 (69.3%) had matched projections. The matched projections group of industries tended to be underprojected (bias of -26), while the absolute percentage error was lower than the 2-digit SIC result (3.8% in Table 4 versus 5.0% in Table 3). Dissimilar results were seen for the unmatched group as its bias statistic was a positive 177.0 (overprojected) and its absolute percentage error was 9.5 percent. Table 5 shows a breakdown of matched and unmatched forecasts by major industry. The lowest proportions of matched forecasts were in Agriculture (25.0%), Retail Trade (50.0%), and Finance,

Table 2: Wyoming Short-Term Employment Projections and Absolute Error by Major Industry, 2nd Quarter 2003 (2003Q2)

Industry	Projected Employment 2003Q2	Actual Employment 2003Q2	Absolute Error	Absolute Percentage Error
Agriculture	4,406	4,194	212	5.1%
Mining	19,601	19,086	515	2.7%
Construction	19,647	18,595	1,052	5.7%
Manufacturing	10,789	10,174	615	6.0%
TCPU ^a	12,988	13,489	501	3.7%
Wholesale Trade	8,318	8,192	126	1.5%
Retail Trade	48,347	47,069	1,278	2.7%
FIRE ^b	8,744	8,915	171	1.9%
Services	91,836	91,669	167	0.2%
Public Administration	21,843	22,415	572	2.6%

^aTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^bFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Table 3: Wyoming Short-Term Projection Accuracy Measures, 2nd Quarter 2003 (2003Q2)

Absolute Percentage Error (2-digit SIC) ^a	5.0%
Bias in the Number of Jobs (2-digit SIC) ^a	36.3
Absolute Percentage Error (Major Industry) ^b	2.1%
Bias ^c in the Number of Jobs (Major Industry) ^b	272.1

^aAll 75 2-digit industries forecasted.

^bTen major industries forecasted.

^cBias = $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n e_i}{n}$ Where e = the amount of projection error in each 2-digit or major industry and n = the number of 2-digit or major industries projected.

Insurance, & Real Estate (FIRE; 57.1%) and the highest proportions of matched forecasts were in Wholesale Trade (100.0%) and Public Administration (100.0%).

Implications

The variation in projection accuracy measures can be influenced by a variety of factors. In some industries, such as Mining, commodity prices and their inherent volatility play a significant role in expected profit levels and corresponding employment. Other factors affecting projection accuracy may include analyst biases, time series stability (data follows a steady trend versus exhibiting large changes in short time spans), and unforeseen events. As Leonard stated in *Employment Outlook: 2000-2010* "...projections represent the midrange of possible outcomes based on past and current trends, and assume [sic] that the current policies will remain the same" (2003, p. 37). However, one can reasonably expect that projection accuracy should improve over time as knowledge increases and projection technical capabilities advance. The accuracy of subsequent rounds of short-term projections will be compared to past rounds to see if projection error decreases over time. However, the detail at which accuracy useful for assessing accuracy may be limited by the change from the SIC system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Once R&P completes two projection rounds using NAICS, detailed comparisons will once again be possible.

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Table 4: Wyoming Directional Projection Analysis by 2-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code, 2003Q2

Category	Matched Projections	Unmatched Projections
Number of Industries	52	23
% of Projections	69.3%	30.7%
Bias in Jobs ^a	-26.0	177.0
Absolute Percentage Error	3.8%	9.5%

^aBias = $\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n e_i}{n}$ Where e = the amount of projection error in each 2-digit or major industry and n = the number of 2-digit or major industries projected.

Table 5: Wyoming Directional Projection Analysis by Major Industry, 2nd Quarter 2003 (2003Q2)

Industry	Matched Projections ^a	Unmatched Projections	% Matched Projections
Agriculture	1	3	25.0%
Mining	3	1	75.0%
Construction	2	1	66.7%
Manufacturing	13	5	72.2%
TCPU ^b	7	3	70.0%
Wholesale Trade	2	0	100.0%
Retail Trade	4	4	50.0%
FIRE ^c	4	3	57.1%
Services	13	3	81.3%
Public Administration	3	0	100.0%

^aThe 75 industries projected did not include all possible 2-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes due to some industries having zero employment.

^bTransportation, Communications, & Public Utilities.

^cFinance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

Wyoming Labor Market in 2003

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Wyoming's annual average unemployment rate increased from 4.2 percent in 2002 to 4.4 percent in 2003 (not a statistically significant increase) and labor force (the sum of all employed and unemployed individuals) grew at a healthy pace, increasing by 8,425 individuals or 3.0 percent. Statewide nonagricultural job growth, which started the year at 0.4 percent, increased to 2.0 percent by year-end (the annual average was 0.8%) signaling growth in Wyoming's economy. Wyoming's metropolitan areas (Natrona County and Laramie County) experienced faster nonagricultural employment growth than the state as a whole. While nonagricultural employment growth was very slow during the early part of 2003, by the end of the year it had reached a healthy level of 2.0 percent.

Current Employment Statistics

Wyoming total nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased from an annual average of 247,900 jobs in 2002 to 250,000 jobs in 2003 (see Tables 1 & 2, pages 7 and 8, respectively). This represents an increase of 2,100 jobs or 0.8 percent. However, when comparing individual months in 2002 and 2003 a different picture emerges. Over-the-year employment growth stood at 0.4 percent in January 2003, decreased to -0.1 percent in March, then increased steadily to 2.0 percent in December 2003. In other words, by the end of 2003, we were seeing a rebound in employment growth from the brief slowdown that occurred in the second half of 2002 and the first half of 2003. One of the largest contributors to this recovery was Natural Resources & Mining. By December 2003, it had gained 1,700 jobs (or 9.8%) from its December 2002 employment level. Construction, which was losing jobs in January 2003 (-1,000 jobs or -5.7%), experienced a turnaround and was gaining

jobs in December (900 jobs or 4.9%). Higher energy prices and increased oil & gas drilling activity may be partially responsible for the improving state of Wyoming's economy.

On an annual average basis, job growth was seen across many industries. Some of the largest increases occurred in Natural Resources & Mining (400 jobs or 2.2%), Transportation, Utilities & Warehousing (400 jobs or 3.4%), Educational & Health Services (900 jobs or 4.3%), and Government (800 jobs or 1.3%).

Only a few sectors suffered job losses (on an annual average basis) in 2003, including Construction (down 400 jobs), Manufacturing (down 200 jobs), Retail Trade (down 300 jobs), and Professional & Business Services (down 100 jobs). However, even within these broad sectors, some industries grew. For example, within Construction, heavy & civil engineering construction added 200 jobs. Within Retail Trade, general merchandise stores grew by 100 jobs. Within Professional & Business Services, administrative & support & waste services added 100 jobs.

During 2003, Natrona County added 600 jobs (see Tables 3 & 4, page 9) giving it a growth rate of 1.8 percent. Natural Resources & Mining grew by 14.3 percent or 300 jobs, suggesting that Natrona County is benefiting from higher energy prices and increased drilling activity. Other growth industries included Construction (100 jobs or 4.5%), Professional & Business Services (100 jobs or 3.4%), Educational & Health Services (100 jobs or 2.4%), and Leisure & Hospitality (100 jobs or 3.2%). Job losses were seen in Wholesale Trade (-100 jobs or -4.5%) and Information (-100 jobs or -16.7%).

(Text continued on page 10)

Table 1: Wyoming Statewide Final Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (In Thousands), 2002

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	237.9	237.7	240.2	242.4	250.2	258.2	255.7	255.4	254.2	250.5	246.5	246.1	247.9
TOTAL PRIVATE	176.0	175.4	176.8	179.4	186.1	194.1	197.2	197.0	191.5	186.3	182.2	181.0	185.3
GOODS PRODUCING	45.5	44.2	44.7	45.9	48.2	49.0	49.4	50.2	49.4	48.7	47.0	45.1	47.3
Natural Resources & Mining	18.4	18.1	17.9	17.4	17.7	18.0	18.3	18.4	18.0	17.8	17.5	17.3	17.9
Mining	18.2	17.9	17.8	17.3	17.6	17.9	18.1	18.3	17.8	17.7	17.4	17.2	17.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.5
Coal Mining	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Support Activities for Mining	7.5	7.2	7.1	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.7	7.1
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.1
Construction	17.6	17.0	17.5	19.2	21.1	21.5	21.6	22.2	21.9	21.2	19.8	18.2	19.9
Construction of Buildings	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.7
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	4.3	4.0	4.1	5.2	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.7	6.3	5.3	4.4	5.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	8.7	8.6	8.9	9.4	10.3	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.3	10.2	10.0	9.5	9.8
Manufacturing	9.5	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5
Durable Goods	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Non-Durable Goods	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6
SERVICE PROVIDING	192.4	193.5	195.5	196.5	202.0	209.2	206.3	205.2	204.8	201.8	199.5	201.0	200.6
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	47.0	46.4	46.7	47.2	48.5	49.7	50.0	50.0	49.1	48.7	49.0	49.2	48.5
Wholesale Trade	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Retail Trade	28.9	28.4	28.7	29.1	30.3	31.2	31.5	31.4	30.7	30.1	30.4	30.6	30.1
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
Building Material & Garden Supplies Dealers	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6
Food & Beverage Stores	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.0
Grocery Stores	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0
Gasoline Stations	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.4	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.8
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.3
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Transportation & Warehousing	9.0	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.2
Truck Transportation	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Information	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1
Financial Activities	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.0	9.9	9.9	10.0
Finance & Insurance	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5
Professional & Business Services	14.5	14.8	15.0	15.5	15.7	16.2	16.6	16.4	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.2	15.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5
Architectural, Engineering & Rel. Services	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2
Management of Companies & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Services	6.4	6.7	6.8	7.3	7.8	8.1	8.3	8.1	7.6	7.6	7.2	6.9	7.4
Educational & Health Services	19.3	19.7	19.8	19.7	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.1	20.0	19.9	20.1	20.2	19.9
Educational Services	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	17.5	17.8	17.9	17.9	18.1	18.1	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.2	18.3	18.0
Ambulatory Health Care Services	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.6
Offices of Physicians	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
Hospitals	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3
Social Assistance	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4
Leisure & Hospitality	26.6	27.0	27.2	27.5	29.9	34.9	36.7	35.9	33.2	29.6	27.1	27.7	30.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.5	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.5
Accommodation & Food Services	24.6	24.9	25.1	25.3	27.4	31.8	33.4	32.7	30.3	27.0	25.1	25.6	27.8
Accommodation	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5	10.0	13.2	13.9	13.5	11.8	9.3	8.1	8.8	10.2
Food Services & Drinking Places	16.2	16.3	16.6	16.8	17.4	18.6	19.5	19.2	18.5	17.7	17.0	16.8	17.6
Other Services	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.6
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	61.9	62.3	63.4	63.0	64.1	64.1	58.5	58.4	62.7	64.2	64.3	65.1	62.7
Federal Government	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.8	7.2	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	7.6	7.3	8.0	7.5
State Government	14.3	14.3	14.6	14.6	14.8	14.5	14.0	13.7	14.1	14.9	15.0	15.0	14.5
State Govt. Education	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.4
Local Government	40.8	41.3	42.0	41.6	42.1	41.4	36.1	36.5	40.3	41.7	42.0	42.1	40.7
Local Govt. Education	21.7	22.2	22.7	22.2	22.3	20.3	15.0	15.6	20.3	22.1	22.4	22.4	20.8
Hospitals	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6

Note: Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2: Wyoming Statewide Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (In Thousands), 2003

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	238.9	238.4	240.0	243.1	250.8	259.7	257.3	258.7	257.4	254.5	250.7	251.0	250.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	175.6	174.7	175.5	179.1	185.8	194.8	198.1	199.5	194.5	189.4	185.8	185.7	186.5
GOODS PRODUCING	42.9	42.3	42.6	44.6	46.8	48.5	49.4	51.0	50.5	50.1	48.9	47.9	47.1
Natural Resources & Mining	17.1	17.2	17.2	17.4	17.8	18.4	18.9	19.2	18.9	19.0	19.0	19.0	18.3
Mining	17.0	17.1	17.0	17.4	17.7	18.3	18.7	19.1	18.8	18.9	18.9	19.0	18.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.4
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Support Activities for Mining	6.6	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.6	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.6
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.3
Construction	16.6	16.2	16.6	18.2	19.9	20.8	21.1	22.3	22.2	21.3	20.1	19.1	19.5
Construction of Buildings	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.7	5.6	6.0	6.2	7.3	7.7	6.9	6.0	5.3	5.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	8.8	8.6	8.6	9.4	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.3	10.1	9.7	9.6	9.7
Manufacturing	9.2	8.9	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.3
Durable Goods	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9
Non-Durable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.4
SERVICE PROVIDING	196.0	196.1	197.4	198.5	204.0	211.2	207.9	207.7	206.9	204.4	201.8	203.1	202.9
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	47.1	46.5	46.5	47.2	48.2	49.6	50.2	50.3	49.4	48.4	48.9	48.9	48.4
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1
Retail Trade	28.8	28.3	28.3	28.9	29.7	30.8	31.2	31.2	30.7	29.8	30.1	30.2	29.8
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2
Building Material & Garden Supplies Dealers	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
Food & Beverage Stores	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
Grocery Stores	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9
Gasoline Stations	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
General Merchandise Stores	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.2	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.9
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
Transportation, Warehouse, & Utilities	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.6	11.8	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.7
Utilities	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Transportation & Warehousing	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.5
Truck Transportation	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
Information	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Financial Activities	9.8	9.8	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.2
Finance & Insurance	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4
Professional & Business Services	14.3	14.5	14.5	15.2	15.7	16.4	16.6	16.7	16.2	15.8	15.3	15.3	15.5
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5
Architectural, Engineering & Rel. Services	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Management of Companies & Enterprises	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Services	6.5	6.6	6.6	7.3	7.9	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.1	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.5
Educational & Health Services	20.4	20.5	20.4	20.7	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8	21.1	21.3	21.4	20.8
Educational Services	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.7	19.0	18.8	18.6	18.7	18.8	19.0	19.2	19.3	18.8
Ambulatory Health Care Services	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.0
Offices of Physicians	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Hospitals	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3
Social Assistance	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8
Leisure & Hospitality	27.5	27.5	27.7	27.8	30.2	35.2	36.6	36.2	33.5	29.8	27.2	28.0	30.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.6	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.6
Accommodation & Food Services	25.4	25.4	25.6	25.6	27.6	32.0	33.2	32.8	30.4	27.2	25.2	26.0	28.0
Accommodation	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.7	10.2	13.3	14.0	13.5	11.8	9.3	8.2	9.0	10.4
Food Services & Drinking Places	16.4	16.4	16.6	16.9	17.4	18.7	19.2	19.3	18.6	17.9	17.0	17.0	17.6
Other Services	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	63.3	63.7	64.5	64.0	65.0	64.9	59.2	59.2	62.9	65.1	64.9	65.3	63.5
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.4	7.8	7.5	7.4	7.7
State Government	14.9	14.8	15.0	14.9	15.0	14.7	14.2	13.8	14.3	15.2	15.3	15.5	14.8
State Govt. Education	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.3	4.7	4.5	5.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	5.6
Local Government	41.3	41.8	42.3	42.0	42.5	41.8	36.4	36.9	40.2	42.1	42.1	42.4	41.0
Local Govt. Education	21.7	22.3	22.7	22.5	22.5	20.9	15.2	15.9	20.3	22.4	22.6	22.7	21.0
Hospitals	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.6

Note: Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3: Natrona County Final Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (In Thousands), 2002

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.4	32.5	32.9	33.1	33.8	34.4	33.8	34.1	33.8	34.1	33.8	33.9	33.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	26.9	26.9	27.2	27.5	28.1	28.7	28.9	29.1	28.5	28.4	28.1	28.1	28.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8
Natural Resources & Mining	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
Construction	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2
Manufacturing	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	26.9	27.1	27.5	27.7	28.0	28.5	27.9	27.9	27.9	28.1	27.9	28.1	27.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	7.9
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Retail Trade	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.6
Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Financial Activities	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
Professional & Business Services	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9
Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Leisure & Hospitality	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Other Services	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.5
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.1
Local Education	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.8	1.9	2.2	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8

Note: Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 4: Natrona County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (In Thousands), 2003

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.9	33.1	33.5	33.9	34.5	34.8	34.6	34.5	34.5	34.8	34.5	34.7	34.2
TOTAL PRIVATE	27.3	27.4	27.7	28.1	28.6	29.1	29.6	29.7	29.5	29.2	28.9	28.9	28.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.3
Natural Resources & Mining	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.4
Construction	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	27.4	27.5	27.8	28.1	28.3	28.5	27.9	27.7	27.8	28.1	27.9	28.1	27.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.8
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Retail Trade	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6
Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Professional & Business Services	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0
Educational & Health Services	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Leisure & Hospitality	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2
Other Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.5
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.1
Local Education	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.8

Note: Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 5: Laramie County Final Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (in Thousands), 2002

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.4	37.5	37.9	38.7	39.3	40.1	40.1	39.5	39.8	39.9	39.6	39.7	39.1
TOTAL PRIVATE	25.4	25.5	25.7	26.7	27.3	27.9	28.3	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.3	27.4	27.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.0
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	33.8	33.9	34.1	34.7	35.1	35.8	35.9	35.3	35.6	35.7	35.6	35.8	35.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.2
Wholesale Trade	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Retail Trade	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.4
Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Financial Activities	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Professional & Business Services	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5
Educational & Health Services	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Leisure & Hospitality	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.3
Other Services	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.0	12.0	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.2	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.1
Federal Government	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5
State Government	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Local Government	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.8

Table 6: Laramie County Preliminary Current Employment Statistics (Establishment Survey) Data (in Thousands), 2003

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	38.9	39.0	39.2	39.5	40.3	41.0	41.0	40.5	40.5	40.1	40.0	39.9	40.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	26.7	26.7	26.8	27.1	27.8	28.5	28.8	28.6	28.3	27.7	27.7	27.5	27.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0
Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.5
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	35.3	35.4	35.4	35.6	36.1	36.7	36.7	36.1	36.3	35.9	36.0	36.1	36.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.5
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Retail Trade	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5
Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0
Professional & Business Services	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3
Educational & Health Services	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3
Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.2	11.9	12.2	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.3
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6
State Government	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9
Local Government	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8

Laramie County added 900 jobs or 2.3 percent during 2003 (see Tables 5 & 6). Educational & Health Services and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities each added 300 jobs. Modest job gains were reported in Information (100 jobs or 9.1%), Financial

Activities (100 jobs or 5.0%), and Government (200 jobs or 1.6%). Professional & Business Services was the only industry in Laramie County that showed decreasing

(Text continued on page 12)

Table 7: Wyoming Local Area Unemployment (Household Survey) Annual Averages, 2001-2003

	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003
WYOMING				LINCOLN COUNTY			
Labor Force	272,187	269,942	278,367	Labor Force	6,792	6,680	7,642
Employment	261,481	258,610	266,163	Employment	6,428	6,269	7,202
Unemployment	10,706	11,332	12,204	Unemployment	364	411	440
Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.2	4.4	Unemployment Rate	5.4	6.2	5.8
ALBANY COUNTY				NATRONA COUNTY			
Labor Force	19,263	18,964	19,704	Labor Force	35,339	35,232	36,657
Employment	18,882	18,594	19,322	Employment	33,904	33,625	34,891
Unemployment	381	370	382	Unemployment	1,435	1,607	1,766
Unemployment Rate	2.0	2.0	1.9	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.6	4.8
BIG HORN COUNTY				NIOBRARA COUNTY			
Labor Force	5,976	5,735	5,851	Labor Force	1,244	1,184	1,195
Employment	5,679	5,430	5,584	Employment	1,202	1,138	1,152
Unemployment	297	305	267	Unemployment	42	46	43
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.3	4.6	Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.9	3.6
CAMPBELL COUNTY				PARK COUNTY			
Labor Force	22,337	22,758	22,820	Labor Force	15,559	15,383	16,071
Employment	21,683	21,978	21,888	Employment	14,875	14,687	15,378
Unemployment	654	780	932	Unemployment	684	696	693
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.4	4.1	Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.5	4.3
CARBON COUNTY				PLATTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	8,267	8,019	8,121	Labor Force	4,460	4,406	4,391
Employment	7,902	7,655	7,670	Employment	4,287	4,210	4,177
Unemployment	365	364	451	Unemployment	173	196	214
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.5	5.6	Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.4	4.9
CONVERSE COUNTY				SHERIDAN COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,622	6,239	6,582	Labor Force	14,169	14,273	14,820
Employment	6,344	5,963	6,265	Employment	13,603	13,716	14,189
Unemployment	278	276	317	Unemployment	566	557	631
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	4.8	Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	4.3
CROOK COUNTY				SUBLETTE COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,991	2,923	3,032	Labor Force	3,374	3,494	3,809
Employment	2,877	2,817	2,901	Employment	3,304	3,404	3,703
Unemployment	114	106	131	Unemployment	70	90	106
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.6	4.3	Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.6	2.8
FREMONT COUNTY				SWEETWATER COUNTY			
Labor Force	18,743	18,517	18,662	Labor Force	20,576	19,749	20,667
Employment	17,549	17,362	17,454	Employment	19,630	18,810	19,770
Unemployment	1,194	1,155	1,208	Unemployment	946	939	897
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.2	6.5	Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.8	4.3
GOSHEN COUNTY				TETON COUNTY			
Labor Force	6,431	6,179	6,220	Labor Force	12,665	12,334	12,486
Employment	6,198	5,953	5,987	Employment	12,379	11,959	11,994
Unemployment	233	226	233	Unemployment	286	375	492
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.7	3.7	Unemployment Rate	2.3	3.0	3.9
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY				UINTA COUNTY			
Labor Force	2,468	2,349	2,251	Labor Force	11,040	11,322	11,293
Employment	2,362	2,240	2,175	Employment	10,487	10,672	10,633
Unemployment	106	109	76	Unemployment	553	650	660
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.6	3.4	Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.7	5.8
JOHNSON COUNTY				WASHAKIE COUNTY			
Labor Force	3,910	3,974	4,121	Labor Force	4,628	4,519	4,647
Employment	3,791	3,864	3,988	Employment	4,419	4,282	4,459
Unemployment	119	110	133	Unemployment	209	237	188
Unemployment Rate	3.0	2.8	3.2	Unemployment Rate	4.5	5.2	4.0
LARAMIE COUNTY				WESTON COUNTY			
Labor Force	41,988	42,431	44,132	Labor Force	3,347	3,280	3,194
Employment	40,492	40,827	42,314	Employment	3,203	3,156	3,069
Unemployment	1,496	1,604	1,818	Unemployment	144	124	125
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.8	4.1	Unemployment Rate	4.3	3.8	3.9

employment in 2003 (-200 jobs or -6.1%) indicating that job gains were widespread across most industry sectors.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Table 7 (see page 11) shows that after decreasing slightly in 2002, labor force grew at a healthy pace in 2003 (an increase of 8,425 individuals or 3.0%). Part of this growth was due to an increase in the number of unemployed individuals. A growing labor force is good news for economic developers seeking to attract new firms to the state and employers needing to hire workers as their businesses grow.

The statewide unemployment rate continued to increase, from 3.9 percent in

2001, to 4.2 percent in 2002 and 4.4 percent in 2003. However, this is not unusual as the U.S. unemployment rate increased even further, growing from 4.7 percent in 2001, to 5.8 percent in 2002, and 6.0 percent in 2003. The unemployment rate also increased in 15 of Wyoming's 23 counties. The unemployment rate decreased in Albany, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Niobrara, Park, Sweetwater, and Washakie counties.

Labor force increased in all but four Wyoming counties (Hot Springs, Platte, Uinta, and Weston) suggesting that economic growth is occurring throughout most areas of the state. Counties where labor force grew at the fastest pace included Lincoln, Sublette, Converse, and Sweetwater.



Employment Growth Continues in March

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

Wyoming employment continued to grow at a healthy pace in March. The state added 4,500 jobs (1.9%) compared to March 2003. U.S. employment growth, though still low, picked up slightly in March (0.5%). Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.5 percent in February to 3.4 percent in March. It remains well below its year-ago level of 4.5 percent and the U.S. rate of 5.7 percent.

From February to March, Wyoming added 800 jobs (0.3%). Seasonal job gains in Construction (400 jobs or 2.4%), Professional & Business Services (200 jobs or 1.4%), and Government (600 jobs or 0.9%) were partially offset by losses in Manufacturing (-200 jobs or -2.2%) and Natural Resources & Mining (-200 jobs or -1.0%).

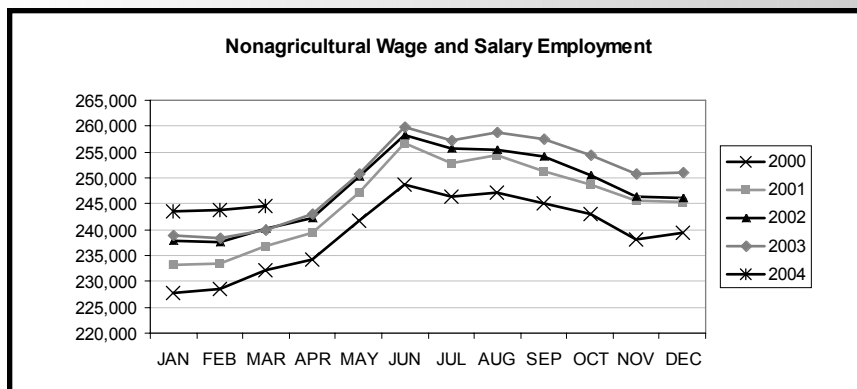
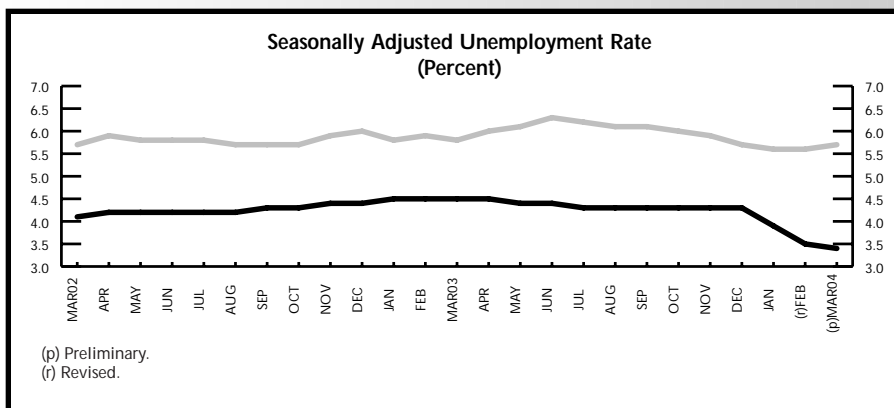
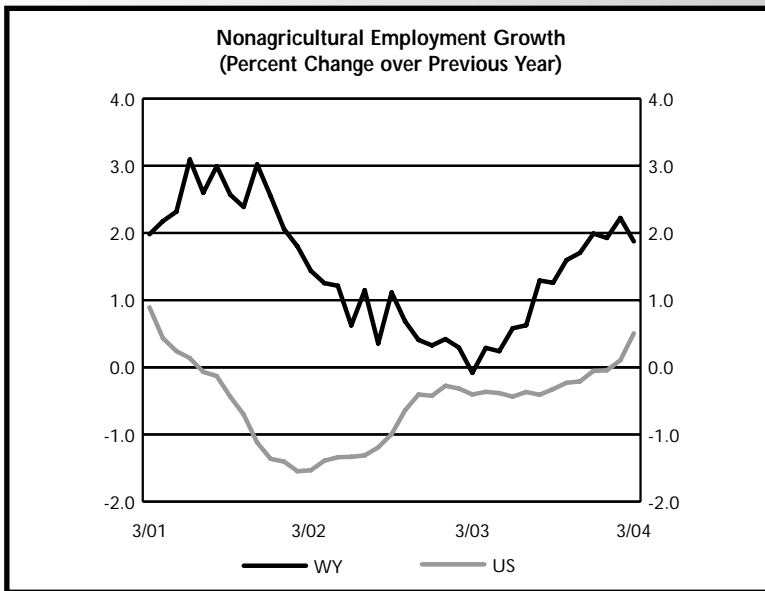
From March 2003, Wyoming added 4,500 jobs (1.9%). Natural Resources & Mining

(including oil & gas) grew by 1,700 jobs or 9.9 percent. Substantial job gains occurred in Construction (400 jobs or 2.4%), Financial Activities (500 jobs or 5.0%), Educational & Health Services (900 jobs or 4.4%), and Government (1,000 jobs or 1.6%). More modest employment growth was seen in Wholesale Trade (300 jobs or 4.4%) and Professional & Business Services (200 jobs or 1.4%). Job losses occurred in Information (-200 jobs or -4.8%) and Leisure & Hospitality (-400 jobs or -1.4%). Employment was unchanged in Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Other Services.

Across Wyoming's 23 counties unemployment rates decreased or remained stable. From February to March, unemployment was unchanged in Sublette (2.5%) and Washakie (4.4%) counties. Large decreases were reported in Platte County (6.8% in February, 4.9% in March), Crook

County (5.5% in February, 4.3% in March), and Converse County (5.2% in February, 4.0% in March).

Substantial over-the-year employment growth was seen in Natrona (1,100), Campbell (683), Fremont (498), and Park (474) counties. It appears that employment fell slightly in Laramie County (-107) and Teton County (-90).



**State Unemployment Rates
March 2004
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.7
Oregon	7.2
Alaska	7.1
District of Columbia	6.9
Michigan	6.9
South Carolina	6.7
California	6.5
New York	6.5
Texas	6.2
Washington	6.1
Illinois	6.0
Alabama	5.9
New Mexico	5.7
Ohio	5.7
United States	5.7
Rhode Island	5.6
Kentucky	5.5
Louisiana	5.5
Arkansas	5.4
West Virginia	5.4
Pennsylvania	5.3
Indiana	5.2
New Jersey	5.2
North Carolina	5.2
Massachusetts	5.1
Wisconsin	5.1
Missouri	5.0
Tennessee	5.0
Utah	5.0
Arizona	4.9
Colorado	4.9
Connecticut	4.9
Maine	4.9
Florida	4.8
Kansas	4.8
Minnesota	4.7
Oklahoma	4.7
Idaho	4.6
Nevada	4.4
Mississippi	4.2
Montana	4.2
Iowa	4.1
Maryland	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
Delaware	3.8
Hawaii	3.8
Georgia	3.6
Nebraska	3.6
Vermont	3.6
Virginia	3.4
Wyoming	3.4
South Dakota	3.3
North Dakota	3.0

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming employment continued to grow at a healthy pace in March, increasing by 4,500 jobs or 1.9 percent.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment			
	Mar04(p)		Feb04(r)		Mar03(b)		Mar04		Mar04(p)		Feb04(r)		Mar03(b)		Mar04		
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	244.5	243.7	240.0	0.3	1.9			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	39.0	39.2	39.2	-0.5	-0.5				
TOTAL PRIVATE	179.0	178.8	175.5	0.1	2.0			TOTAL PRIVATE	26.6	26.7	26.8	-0.4	-0.7				
GOODS PRODUCING	44.7	44.7	42.6	0.0	4.9			GOODS PRODUCING	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	0.0				
Natural Resources & Mining	18.9	19.1	17.2	-1.0	9.9			Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	-4.2				
Mining	18.8	18.9	17.0	-0.5	10.6			Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1				
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.2	3.2	3.0	0.0	6.7			SERVICE PROVIDING	35.2	35.4	35.4	-0.6	-0.6				
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.3	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.0			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.0	8.1	8.2	-1.2	-2.4				
Coal Mining	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0			Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0				
Support Activities for Mining	8.3	8.4	6.7	-1.2	23.9			Retail Trade	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	-3.8				
Support Activities for Oil & Gas	5.9	5.9	4.8	0.0	22.9			Information	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1				
Construction	17.0	16.6	16.6	2.4	2.4			Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3				
Construction of Buildings	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6			Professional & Business Services	2.9	3.0	3.2	-3.3	-9.4				
Heavy & Civil Engineering Constr.	4.6	4.3	4.1	7.0	12.2			Educational & Health Services	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.0	6.9				
Specialty Trade Contractors	8.6	8.5	8.6	1.2	0.0			Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0				
Manufacturing	8.8	9.0	8.8	-2.2	0.0			Other Services	1.7	1.6	1.6	6.2	6.2				
Durable Goods	4.8	4.9	4.7	-2.0	2.1			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.5	12.4	-0.8	0.0				
Non-Durable Goods	4.0	4.1	4.1	-2.4	-2.4			Federal Government	2.6	2.7	2.5	-3.7	4.0				
SERVICE PROVIDING	199.8	199.0	197.4	0.4	1.2			State Government	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0				
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	46.9	46.9	46.5	0.0	0.9			Local Government	5.9	5.9	6.0	0.0	-1.7				
Wholesale Trade	7.1	7.0	6.8	1.4	4.4			NATRONA COUNTY									
Merchant Whlsr.s., Durable Goods	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.5	0.0			TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	34.6	33.9	33.5	2.1	3.3				
Retail Trade	28.3	28.4	28.3	-0.4	0.0			TOTAL PRIVATE	28.8	28.2	27.7	2.1	4.0				
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	0.0			GOODS PRODUCING	6.5	6.4	5.7	1.6	14.0				
Bldg. Material & Garden Supplies	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0			Natural Resources & Mining	2.6	2.6	2.1	0.0	23.8				
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.5	4.7	2.2	-2.1			Construction	2.3	2.2	2.1	4.5	9.5				
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.7	3.8	2.7	0.0			Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7				
Gasoline Stations	4.0	3.9	3.9	2.6	2.6			SERVICE PROVIDING	28.1	27.5	27.8	2.2	1.1				
General Merchandise Stores	5.5	5.5	5.3	0.0	3.8			Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	7.8	7.6	7.8	2.6	0.0				
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.6	1.8	1.7	-11.1	-5.9			Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.8	4.8				
Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	11.5	11.5	11.4	0.0	0.9			Retail Trade	4.5	4.4	4.6	2.3	-2.2				
Utilities	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.8	4.8			Transportation, Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0				
Transportation & Warehousing	9.3	9.4	9.3	-1.1	0.0			Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0				
Truck Transportation	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	6.5			Financial Activities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0				
Information	4.0	4.1	4.2	-2.4	-4.8			Professional & Business Services	2.9	2.7	2.8	7.4	3.6				
Financial Activities	10.5	10.5	10.0	0.0	5.0			Educational & Health Services	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3				
Finance & Insurance	7.1	7.2	6.7	-1.4	6.0			Leisure & Hospitality	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2				
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.0			Other Services	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.2	0.0				
Professional & Business Services	14.7	14.5	14.5	1.4	1.4			TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5.8	5.7	5.8	1.8	0.0				
Prof., Scientific & Technical Services	7.3	7.2	7.4	1.4	-1.4			Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0				
Architectural, Engineering & Rel.	2.2	2.1	2.0	4.8	10.0			State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0				
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0			Local Government	4.4	4.3	4.4	2.3	0.0				
Admin. & Support & Waste Svcs.	6.9	6.8	6.6	1.5	4.5			Local Education	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	0.0				
Educational & Health Services	21.3	21.3	20.4	0.0	4.4			Note: Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Wyoming and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.									
Educational	2.1	2.1	1.9	0.0	10.5			(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.									
Health Care & Social Assistance	19.2	19.2	18.5	0.0	3.8												
Ambulatory Health Care	7.3	7.2	6.9	1.4	5.8												
Offices of Physicians	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	3.4												
Hospitals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0												
Nursing & Residential Care Fac.	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8												
Social Assistance	4.8	4.9	4.7	-2.0	2.1												
Leisure & Hospitality	27.3	27.4	27.7	-0.4	-1.4												
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0												
Accommodation & Food Services	25.2	25.3	25.6	-0.4	-1.6												
Accommodation	8.7	8.7	9.0	0.0	-3.3												
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	16.5	16.6	16.6	-0.6	-0.6												
Other Services	9.6	9.4	9.6	2.1	0.0												
Repair & Maintenance	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.0												
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	65.5	64.9	64.5	0.9	1.6												
Federal Government	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0	0.0												
State Government	15.5	15.3	15.0	1.3	3.3												
State Govt. Education	6.1	6.0	5.8	1.7	5.2												
Local Government	42.8	42.4	42.3	0.9	1.2												
Local Govt. Education	22.9	22.6	22.7	1.3	0.9												
Hospitals	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8												

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment (Continued)

	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	Mar04(p)	Feb04(r)	Mar03(b)	Feb04	Mar03
			Mar04		Mar04
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	21.0	21.0	20.5	0.0	2.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	17.3	17.3	16.8	0.0	3.0
GOODS PRODUCING	8.2	8.2	8.0	0.0	2.5
Natural Resources & Mining	6.1	6.1	5.8	0.0	5.2
Construction	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	12.8	12.8	12.5	0.0	2.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	2.6
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	-6.3
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	20.0	19.8	19.5	1.0	2.6
TOTAL PRIVATE	15.7	15.6	15.2	0.6	3.3
GOODS PRODUCING	6.3	6.3	5.9	0.0	6.8
Natural Resources & Mining	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	2.9
Construction	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.0	15.4
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.7	13.5	13.6	1.5	0.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	4.0	4.0	4.1	0.0	-2.4
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Educational & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	4.3	4.2	4.3	2.4	0.0
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.2	15.3	15.4	-0.7	-1.3
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.0	13.1	13.2	-0.8	-1.5
GOODS PRODUCING	1.9	1.9	2.2	0.0	-13.6
Nat. Res., Mining & Construction	1.7	1.7	2.0	0.0	-15.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	13.3	13.4	13.2	-0.7	0.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.0	4.3
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Educational & Health Services	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	5.1	5.2	5.2	-1.9	-1.9
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0

State Unemployment Rates March 2004 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	11.7
Oregon	8.1
Alaska	7.8
Michigan	7.6
District of Columbia	6.8
New York	6.7
California	6.6
Washington	6.5
Illinois	6.4
South Carolina	6.3
Ohio	6.2
Wisconsin	6.2
Texas	6.0
United States	6.0
West Virginia	6.0
Rhode Island	5.9
Kentucky	5.8
Pennsylvania	5.8
Arkansas	5.7
Idaho	5.6
Indiana	5.6
Maine	5.6
Massachusetts	5.6
Alabama	5.5
New Mexico	5.5
New Jersey	5.4
Utah	5.4
Louisiana	5.3
Minnesota	5.3
North Carolina	5.3
Colorado	5.2
Connecticut	5.2
Tennessee	5.2
Missouri	5.1
Montana	5.1
Kansas	5.0
Iowa	4.9
Oklahoma	4.8
Mississippi	4.6
Arizona	4.5
Florida	4.5
Nevada	4.4
New Hampshire	4.3
Vermont	4.2
Delaware	4.0
Maryland	4.0
South Dakota	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Nebraska	3.9
North Dakota	3.9
Georgia	3.6
Hawaii	3.5
Virginia	3.4

Economic Indicators

by: *David Bullard, Senior Economist*

The number of building permits issued for single family homes increased by 48.6 percent from a year earlier.

	Mar 2004 (p)	Feb 2004 (r)	Mar 2003 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	275,011	274,060	273,716	0.3	0.5
Unemployed	10,943	12,608	13,922	-13.2	-21.4
Employed	264,068	261,452	259,794	1.0	1.6
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.0%/3.4%	4.6%/3.5%	5.1%/4.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	6.0%/5.7%	6.0%/5.6%	6.2%/5.8%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,377,000	7,235,000	7,385,000	2.0	-0.1
As a percent of all workers	5.4%	5.3%	5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	514,000	484,000	474,000	6.2	8.4
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,868,000	4,764,000	4,784,000	2.2	1.8
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$987.75	\$948.91	\$970.54	4.1	1.8
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	42.4	43.6	3.5	0.7
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$831.49	\$816.89	\$788.54	1.8	5.4
Average Weekly Hours	44.8	44.3	44.4	1.1	0.9
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$599.26	\$567.57	\$696.96	5.6	-14.0
Average Weekly Hours	36.1	35.1	39.6	2.8	-8.8
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$652.80	\$652.80	\$629.49	0.0	3.7
Average Weekly Hours	40.8	40.8	40.3	0.0	1.2
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	23,143	20,879	23,029	10.8	0.5
Benefits Paid	\$5,434,029	\$4,900,592	\$5,376,589	10.9	1.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$234.80	\$234.71	\$233.47	0.0	0.6
State Insured Covered Jobs	224,128	221,959	218,856	1.0	2.4
Insured Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.5%	2.8%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	187.4	186.2	184.2	0.6	1.7
Housing	184.9	184.5	179.2	0.2	3.2
Apparel	187.9	187.0	184.3	0.5	2.0
Transportation	123.5	118.6	123.6	4.1	-0.1
Medical Care	160.5	158.8	161.0	1.1	-0.3
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	307.5	306.0	294.2	0.5	4.5
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	108.8	108.4	107.4	0.4	1.3
Other Goods & Services	111.1	111.2	109.4	-0.1	1.6
Other Goods & Services	303.1	302.3	297.3	0.3	2.0
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	142.7	141.8	141.2	0.6	1.1
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	255	140	164	82.1	55.5
Valuation	\$34,321,000	\$22,744,000	\$22,080,000	50.9	55.4
Single Family Homes	208	135	140	54	48.6
Valuation	\$31,275,000	\$21,781,000	\$20,752,000	43.6	50.7
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	63	64	40	-1.6	57.5

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

Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Brad Payne, Economist

From February to March, unemployment rates decreased or were stable in all 23 Wyoming counties, typical in most counties during these months.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rate		
	Mar 2004 (p)	Feb 2004 (r)	Mar 2003 (b)	Mar 2004 (p)	Feb 2004 (r)	Mar 2003 (b)	Mar 2004 (p)	Feb 2004 (r)	Mar 2003 (b)	Mar 2004 (p)	Feb 2004 (r)	Mar 2003 (b)
NORTHWEST	46,278	46,038	45,891	43,843	43,316	42,813	2,435	2,722	3,078	5.3	5.9	6.7
Big Horn	5,791	5,780	5,785	5,514	5,455	5,435	277	325	350	4.8	5.6	6.1
Fremont	18,781	18,633	18,604	17,569	17,292	17,071	1,212	1,341	1,533	6.5	7.2	8.2
Hot Springs	2,202	2,170	2,193	2,117	2,074	2,105	85	96	88	3.9	4.4	4.0
Park	14,988	14,943	14,715	14,327	14,182	13,853	661	761	862	4.4	5.1	5.9
Washakie	4,516	4,512	4,594	4,316	4,313	4,349	200	199	245	4.4	4.4	5.3
NORTHEAST	47,642	47,566	47,142	45,974	45,535	44,764	1,668	2,031	2,378	3.5	4.3	5.0
Campbell	22,848	22,911	22,486	22,122	22,026	21,439	726	885	1,047	3.2	3.9	4.7
Crook	2,900	2,878	2,878	2,774	2,719	2,709	126	159	169	4.3	5.5	5.9
Johnson	3,978	3,930	3,962	3,865	3,777	3,787	113	153	175	2.8	3.9	4.4
Sheridan	14,776	14,698	14,629	14,176	13,998	13,811	600	700	818	4.1	4.8	5.6
Weston	3,140	3,149	3,187	3,037	3,015	3,018	103	134	169	3.3	4.3	5.3
SOUTHWEST	54,460	54,145	54,087	52,387	51,842	51,222	2,073	2,303	2,865	3.8	4.3	5.3
Lincoln	7,392	7,389	7,331	6,986	6,933	6,779	406	456	552	5.5	6.2	7.5
Sublette	3,703	3,657	3,422	3,609	3,565	3,322	94	92	100	2.5	2.5	2.9
Sweetwater	20,672	20,327	20,519	19,988	19,538	19,567	684	789	952	3.3	3.9	4.6
Teton	11,579	11,683	11,812	11,200	11,278	11,290	379	405	522	3.3	3.5	4.4
Uinta	11,114	11,089	11,003	10,604	10,528	10,264	510	561	739	4.6	5.1	6.7
SOUTHEAST	75,504	75,594	75,883	72,838	72,484	73,063	2,666	3,110	2,820	3.5	4.1	3.7
Albany	20,313	20,185	20,342	19,916	19,685	19,950	397	500	392	2.0	2.5	1.9
Goshen	6,085	6,058	6,186	5,841	5,765	5,899	244	293	287	4.0	4.8	4.6
Laramie	43,651	43,959	43,831	41,868	41,970	41,975	1,783	1,989	1,856	4.1	4.5	4.2
Niobrara	1,134	1,102	1,192	1,104	1,065	1,132	30	37	60	2.6	3.4	5.0
Platte	4,321	4,290	4,332	4,109	3,999	4,107	212	291	225	4.9	6.8	5.2
CENTRAL	51,126	50,717	50,714	49,025	48,276	47,932	2,101	2,441	2,782	4.1	4.8	5.5
Carbon	7,735	7,692	7,890	7,360	7,259	7,316	375	433	574	4.8	5.6	7.3
Converse	6,303	6,326	6,497	6,048	5,998	6,099	255	328	398	4.0	5.2	6.1
Natrona	37,088	36,699	36,327	35,617	35,019	34,517	1,471	1,680	1,810	4.0	4.6	5.0
STATEWIDE	275,011	274,060	273,716	264,068	261,452	259,794	10,943	12,608	13,922	4.0	4.6	5.1
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.4	3.5	4.5
U.S.....										6.0	6.0	6.2
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										5.7	5.6	5.8

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/04. Run Date 04/04.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

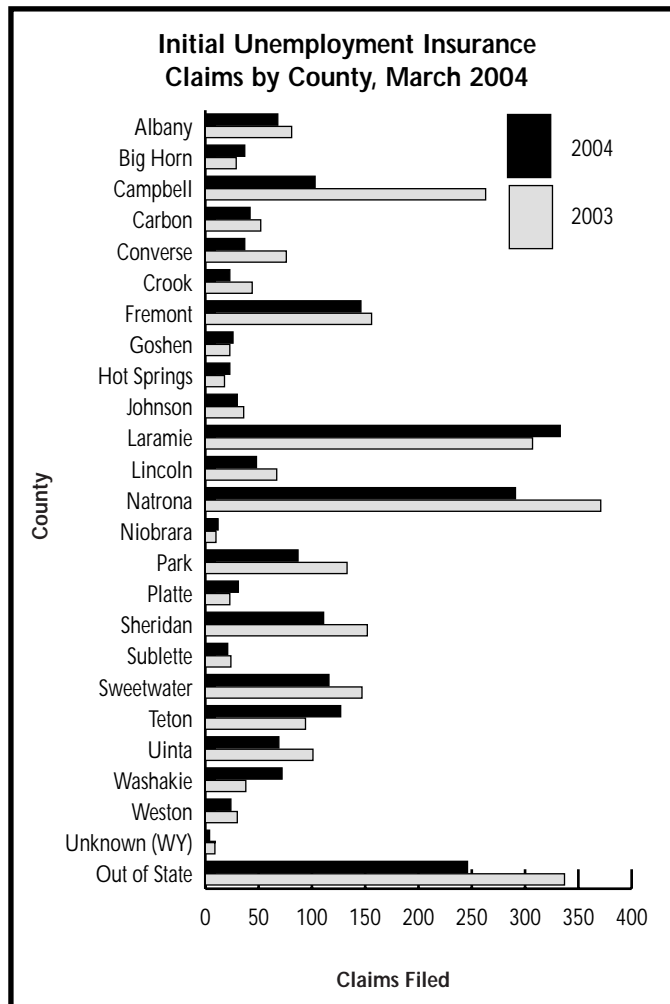
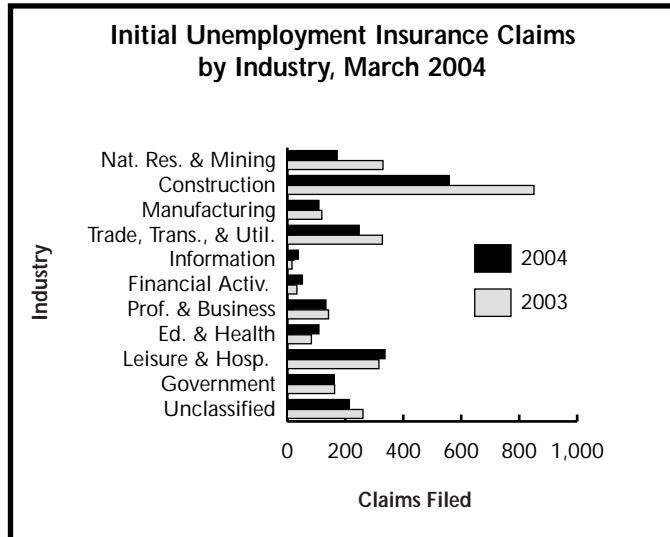
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 2003 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.4 percent. The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 of 10 cases, the interval 3.9 to 4.9 percent would contain the actual rate.

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Research Analyst

Substantial over-the-year declines in Construction and Mining were partially offset by over-the-year increases in Financial Activities, Education & Health Services, and Other Services.



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Mar04	Feb04	Mar03	Feb04	Mar03
WYOMING STATEWIDE	2,133	2,461	2,621	-13.3	-18.6
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED					
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	840	1,194	1,300	-29.6	-35.4
Natural Resources and Mining	172	167	330	3.0	-47.9
Mining	144	148	289	-2.7	-50.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	18	16	17	12.5	5.9
Construction	559	852	851	-34.4	-34.3
Manufacturing	109	175	119	-37.7	-8.4
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	987	958	967	3.0	2.1
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	248	294	328	-15.6	-24.4
Wholesale Trade	23	37	47	-37.8	-51.1
Retail Trade	152	161	169	-5.6	-10.1
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	73	96	112	-24.0	-34.8
Information	38	10	16	280.0	137.5
Financial Activities	52	56	33	-7.1	57.6
Professional & Business Services	133	201	142	-33.8	-6.3
Educational & Health Services	109	145	83	-24.8	31.3
Leisure & Hospitality	337	214	316	57.5	6.6
Other Services	70	38	49	84.2	42.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	162	125	163	29.6	-0.6
Federal Government	74	48	70	54.2	5.7
State Government	25	21	22	19.0	13.6
Local Government	63	56	71	12.5	-11.3
Local Education	19	17	21	11.8	-9.5
UNCLASSIFIED	144	184	191	-21.7	-24.6

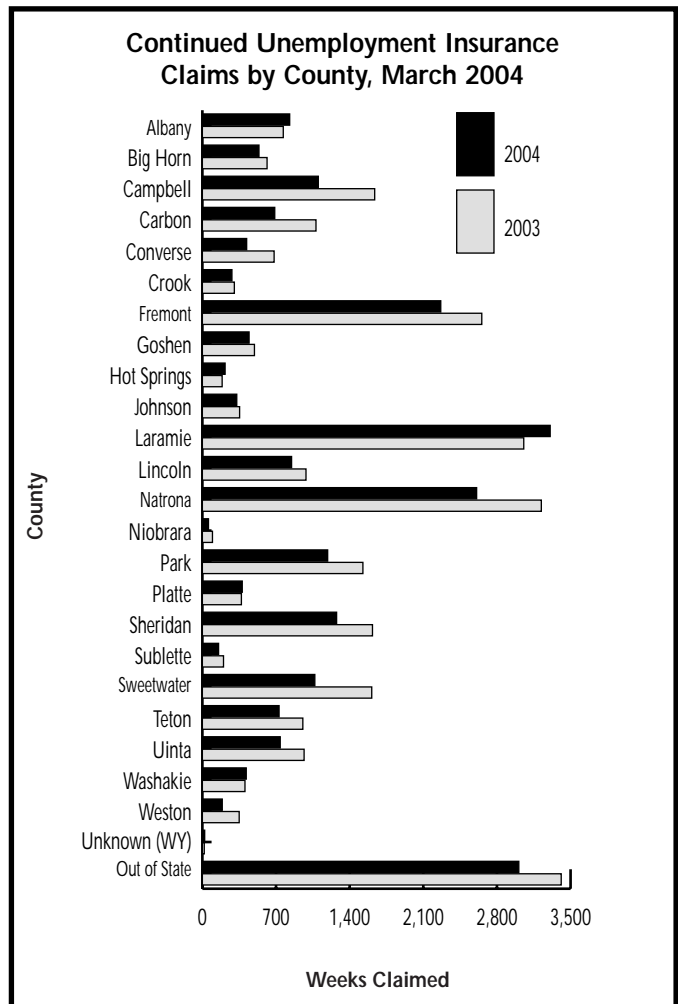
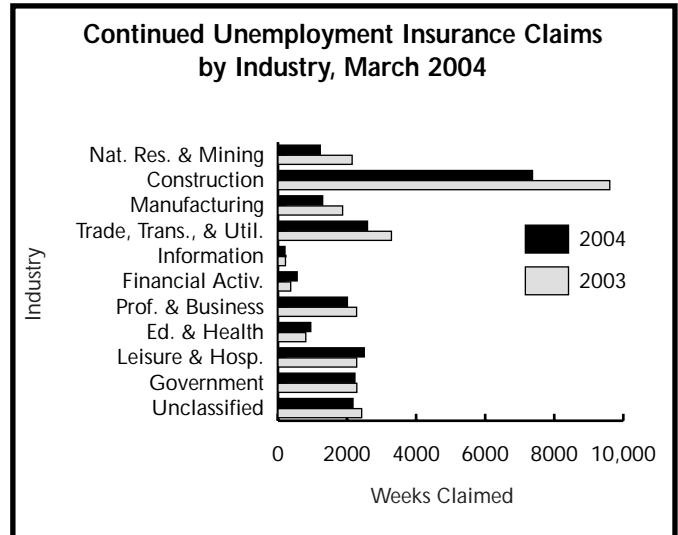
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	334	359	305	-7.0	9.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	115	164	170	-29.9	-32.4
Construction	98	135	130	-27.4	-24.6
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	180	159	106	13.2	69.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	37	39	43	-5.1	-14.0
Financial Activities	7	14	9	-50.0	-22.2
Professional & Business Services	52	69	20	-24.6	160.0
Educational & Health Services	15	15	9	0.0	66.7
Leisure & Hospitality	13	17	19	-23.5	-31.6
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	20	19	25	5.3	-20.0
UNCLASSIFIED	19	17	4	11.8	375.0

NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	292	341	370	-14.4	-21.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	140	186	184	-24.7	-23.9
Construction	106	149	143	-28.9	-25.9
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	137	141	156	-2.8	-12.2
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	37	44	65	-15.9	-43.1
Financial Activities	8	12	6	-33.3	33.3
Professional & Business Services	25	35	29	-28.6	-13.8
Educational & Health Services	26	30	16	-13.3	62.5
Leisure & Hospitality	27	15	31	80.0	-12.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	11	3	18	266.7	-38.9
UNCLASSIFIED	4	11	12	-63.6	-66.7

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

Over-the-year claims in Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing were significantly lower. However, continued claims in Leisure Services and Financial Activities were higher than in March 2003.

	Weeks Claimed			Percent Change	
	Mar04	Feb04	Mar03	Feb04	Mar04
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	23,106	24,994	27,571	-7.6	-16.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	6,034	7,476	8,217	-19.3	-26.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	9,891	11,309	13,628	-12.5	-27.4
Natural Resources and Mining	1,225	1,337	2,148	-8.4	-43.0
Mining	1,007	1,122	1,847	-10.2	-45.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	144	154	198	-6.5	-27.3
Construction	7,371	8,544	9,608	-13.7	-23.3
Manufacturing	1,295	1,428	1,872	-9.3	-30.8
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	9,483	9,534	9,836	-0.5	-3.6
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	2,593	2,718	3,286	-4.6	-21.1
Wholesale Trade	339	394	406	-14.0	-16.5
Retail Trade	1,594	1,612	1,889	-1.1	-15.6
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	660	712	991	-7.3	-33.4
Information	204	166	217	22.9	-6.0
Financial Activities	556	513	369	8.4	50.7
Professional & Business Services	2,011	2,362	2,277	-14.9	-11.7
Educational & Health Services	950	764	806	24.3	17.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,499	2,626	2,280	-4.8	9.6
Other Services	670	385	601	74.0	11.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,229	2,536	2,284	-12.1	-2.4
Federal Government	1,082	1,300	1,010	-16.8	7.1
State Government	282	261	263	8.0	7.2
Local Government	865	975	1,011	-11.3	-14.4
Local Education	181	174	210	4.0	-13.8
UNCLASSIFIED	1,503	1,615	1,823	-6.9	-17.6
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	3,304	3,469	3,056	-4.8	8.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	863	1,058	919	-18.4	-6.1
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,306	1,602	1,380	-18.5	-5.4
Construction	1,121	1,372	1,162	-18.3	-3.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,582	1,441	1,310	9.8	20.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	371	411	487	-9.7	-23.8
Financial Activities	116	130	83	-10.8	39.8
Professional & Business Services	406	493	397	-17.6	2.3
Educational & Health Services	162	148	95	9.5	70.5
Leisure & Hospitality	146	155	142	-5.8	2.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	277	289	218	-4.2	27.1
UNCLASSIFIED	139	137	148	1.5	-6.1
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,606	2,848	3,219	-8.5	-19.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	724	892	987	-18.8	-26.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	1,140	1,306	1,543	-12.7	-26.1
Construction	949	1,100	1,113	-13.7	-14.7
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	1,279	1,324	1,450	-3.4	-11.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	378	389	500	-2.8	-24.4
Financial Activities	92	81	85	13.6	8.2
Professional & Business Services	317	411	392	-22.9	-19.1
Educational & Health Services	199	195	167	2.1	19.2
Leisure & Hospitality	220	192	173	14.6	27.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	96	127	136	-24.4	-29.4
UNCLASSIFIED	91	91	90	0.0	1.1



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