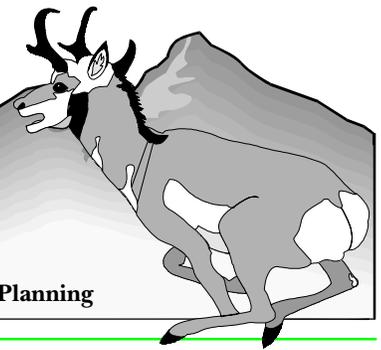


Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

Vol. 37 No. 7 © Copyright 2000 by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning



The Importance of Major Industry to Wyoming's Gender Pay Gap Part One

by: Rich Peters, Labor Market Analyst

Equal pay for equal work inspires lively debate among employers, labor and regulatory government agencies, but none more so than the wage gap between male and female workers.¹ The following analysis studies summarized wage differences between males and females in Wyoming's labor force. The results show 68.5 percent of the female working population work in Retail Trade and Services industries, which pay among the lowest average wage of all industries (see Figure, page 2). A mixture of labor market variables such as primary industry of work, number of quarters without work and number of job changes can individually explain 10.5 to 30.8 percent of the gap between male and female wages from 1992 to

1997. Other market variables available to Research & Planning (R&P) offered little or no explanatory value. We suggest that non-market factors such as societal values and an interactive mixture of non-market and market factors explain the remaining pay gap. For evidence that non-market factors play a predominate role, further research could track segregated age groups to establish initial labor force conditions and analyze the effect of life choices over time as an effect of market behavior. A practical application of this and subsequent analyses may supplement existing guidance, education and training opportunities for women by employment agencies such as the Department of Employment and the Department of Family Services

and programs established by the Workforce Investment Act.

A Review of Gender Equity in Wyoming Labor Force Trends

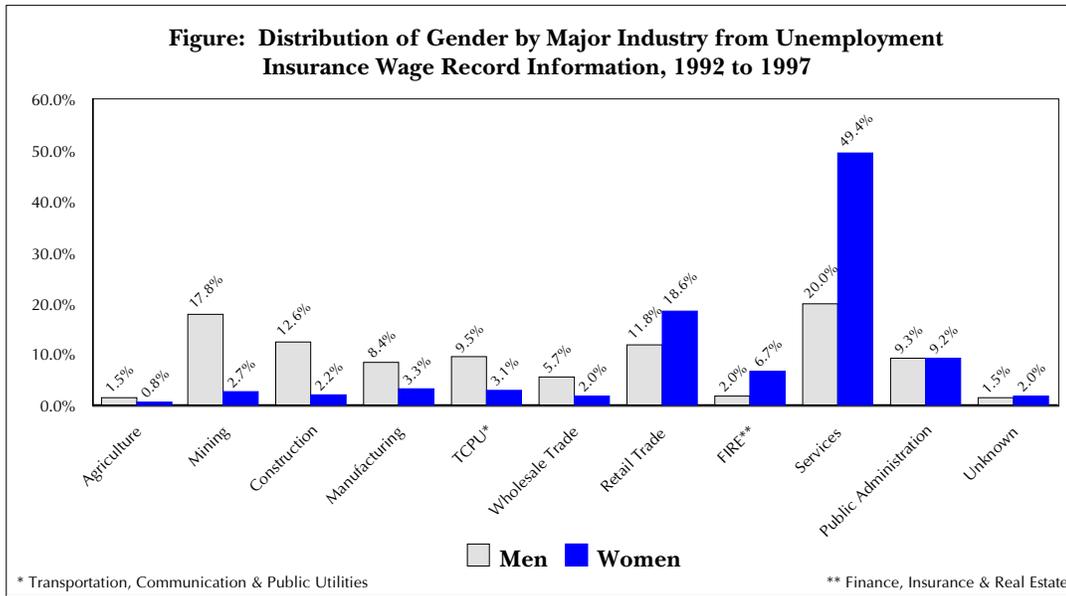
In the May 1993 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, Gregg Detweiler sparked research into gender equity by describing the upward trend in the number of women in the labor market.² He proposed three tentative assumptions based on an analysis of time series data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. First, there exists an increase of women replacing men in Wyoming's labor force. Either occupational replacement or labor market shifts occur.

(Continued on page 2)

July 2000 Wyoming Labor Force TRENDS

Table of Contents

The Importance of Major Industry to Wyoming's Gender Pay Gap Part One	1
Labor Force Changes in Wyoming and Its Neighbors, May 1999 Versus May 2000	6
Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 1999	7
State Unemployment Rates	9
Wyoming Employment Rate Drops in May	10
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	11
Economic Indicators	12
County Unemployment Rates	13
Unemployment Insurance Statistics, Initial and Continued Claims	14



preferable, for females to actively pursue career opportunities, deferring the costs of child bearing to middle adulthood. Birth rates remain steady, if not decreasing, while the age of first-time mothers is increasing.⁴ Further indications of this popularized trend include the medical services industry's increasing revenues from fertility

Occupational usurpation involves the replacement of skilled and unskilled male labor with equally matched female labor. If this were the case, the opportunity for women to receive equal pay for equally skilled, tenured and hourly work would increasingly match that of men, much like the current trend observed at the national level.³

Secondly, increases in single parent households compel more women to secure employment outside the home. However, this is a condition outside direct labor market observation because societal values change periodically and are difficult to quantify.

Lastly, modern social liberties make it acceptable, if not

medications and women's health.

In an explanatory article in the November 1993 issue of *Trends*, Mariann Johnston followed Detweiler's propositions by analyzing occupational job growth using 1980 and 1990 decennial census data for Wyoming.⁵

(Continued on page 3)

Wyoming Labor Force Trends is a monthly publication of the Wyoming Department of Employment, Beth Nelson, Director.

Research & Planning Section, P.O. Box 2760 Casper, WY 82602-2760
 Tom Gallagher, Manager e-mail: tgalla@state.wy.us 307-473-3801
 Krista R. Shinkle, Publications Editor e-mail: kshink@state.wy.us 307-473-3808
 Editorial Committee: David Bullard, Mike Evans, Carol Kjar and Carol Toups

Contributors to **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** this month: Julie Barnish, David Bullard, Carol Kjar and Rich Peters.

Subscriptions, additional copies and back issues available free of charge.
 © Copyright 2000 by the Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning

Material contained in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission provided that source credit is given to: **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning Section.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Department of Employment does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability. It is our intention that all individuals seeking services from our agency be given equal opportunity and that eligibility decisions be based upon applicable statutes, rules and regulations.

Juxtaposing labor force trends with female societal roles, the study found that growth occupations were primarily “pink collar”—occupations traditionally held by female workers. The finding addressed some economic issues faced by working females. For example, what career paths benefit women? The study also qualified Detweiler’s first postulate that females were replacing men in the labor market by showing job growth occurring in occupations typically populated by females. The study also brings to issue the increased importance of education on employment opportunities. Johnston suggests that women place more emphasis on education to increase their viability as potential employees. Recent national studies by the Bureau of Labor Statistics support this claim.⁶ Whether this strategy reduces the gender pay gap in Wyoming remains to be seen.

In a descriptive article in the May and June 1996 issues of *Trends*, Brett Judd and Gregg Detweiler formulated relationships between gender, age and average wages.⁷ During the course of the investigation, one fact was brought to light. The federally funded Current Employment Statistics (CES) program does not require establishments to differentiate between full- and part-time employment for individual workers. Furthermore, state-collected Unemployment Insurance information offers no remedy for this lack of data in administrative records. The reason full- and part-time employment information for individuals is important is the hindrance researchers face when attempting to investigate relationships

between the number of hours worked and earnings. This hindrance carries over to gender pay gap analysis, because we do not know whether earnings are due to de facto or explicit discriminatory practices in the labor market or simply a matter of the prevalence of part-time employment.⁸ It also makes it difficult to conclude economic and social factors for the gender pay gap.⁹

Another R&P investigator, Mary Beth O’Loughlin, focused on the relationships between gender, pay increases and tenure in the August 1997 issue of *Trends*.¹⁰ The study found significant pay increase gaps between men and women, where men received higher pay increases than women in all of Wyoming’s industries.¹¹ However, by reexamining the findings and calculating a cumulative pay increase ratio instead of pay increases alone, new research suggests women workers, typically those found in lower starting wage brackets, actually received proportionately higher pay increases (49.7%) than men (48.3%) across all industries (see Table, page 4). Although possible, Wyoming’s skewed pay increase is not likely different from that found nationally, which suggests that pay increases and benefits are equal among genders.¹²

Many of the aforementioned studies relied upon the accuracy and consistency of labor market information provided by CES, Covered Employment (ES-202) and the Unemployment Insurance wage record database. In a recent study by Dr. Burke Grandjean, limitations in administrative databases, which exclude CES,

were found.¹³ They include input errors, a 90.0 percent capture rate and missing demographic information (e.g., age and date of birth). Additionally, self-employed individuals, railroad employees and employees of religious organizations are not covered by Unemployment Insurance and thus are not included in ES-202 or Unemployment Insurance wage records.¹⁴

Conclusion

With this review, we have looked at past descriptive and explanatory research into the gender pay gap issue in Wyoming’s labor force. Along the way, we found limitations with labor market information and definitions of key terms that hinder our ability to respond to topics involving pay differences. The analysis that will follow in the August 2000 issue of *Trends* adjusts for these difficulties by focusing on the importance of industry segmentation and minimizing the migratory fluctuations of Wyoming labor. The goal is to answer why the gender pay gap exists in Wyoming and offer any constructive remedies that may minimize the pay differential.

1 The United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Hearing on Gender Based Wage Discrimination. June 8, 2000.

2 Gregg Detweiler, “Are Women Replacing Men in the Workforce?”

(Text continued on page 5)

Table: Average Quarterly Wages* with Cumulative Pay Increase and Percent by Starting Wage

Industry	Gender	Count(1)	Starting Wage	Tenure(2)				Cumulative Pay Increase(3)	Proportional Cumulative Increase by Starting Wage(4)
				1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years		
Mining	Male	52	\$8,893.03	\$11,156.20	\$11,129.80	\$12,053.30	\$11,685.90	\$2,792.87	31.4%
	Female	5	\$4,729.94	\$2,263.17	(\$26.40)	\$923.50	(\$367.40)		
Construction	Male	61	\$4,296.04	\$6,197.05	\$6,754.34	\$6,814.60	\$7,340.57	\$3,044.53	70.9%
	Female	12	\$2,195.43	\$1,901.01	\$557.29	\$60.26	\$525.97		
Manufacturing	Male	47	\$5,879.66	\$8,428.70	\$9,066.02	\$9,479.12	\$9,974.50	\$4,094.84	69.6%
	Female	11	\$3,408.25	\$4,105.50	\$5,170.02	\$4,118.90	\$4,359.14		
TCPU**	Male	31	\$6,047.07	\$7,764.94	\$8,617.32	\$9,424.26	\$10,038.90	\$3,991.83	66.0%
	Female	8	\$3,933.62	\$1,717.87	\$852.38	\$806.94	\$614.64		
Wholesale Trade	Male	37	\$5,201.01	\$7,428.06	\$7,870.06	\$8,569.16	\$8,891.04	\$3,690.03	70.9%
	Female	8	\$4,374.79	\$2,227.05	\$442.00	\$699.10	\$321.88		
Retail Trade	Male	62	\$3,007.28	\$4,748.70	\$5,405.47	\$5,673.50	\$5,925.04	\$2,917.76	97.0%
	Female	73	\$1,660.27	\$2,974.43	\$3,258.85	\$3,527.04	\$3,653.69		
FIRE***	Male	20	\$11,115.90	\$12,279.10	\$14,062.60	\$13,035.00	\$14,874.20	\$3,758.30	33.8%
	Female	36	\$1,992.33	\$1,163.20	\$1,783.50	(\$1,027.60)	\$1,839.20		
Services	Male	162	\$8,603.73	\$10,001.40	\$10,990.90	\$11,252.60	\$11,308.60	\$2,704.87	31.4%
	Female	277	\$5,047.76	\$1,397.67	\$989.50	\$261.70	\$56.00		
Public Administration	Male	44	\$3,303.04	\$4,895.76	\$5,613.62	\$5,989.92	\$6,233.97	\$2,930.93	88.7%
	Female	22	\$2,776.58	\$1,592.72	\$717.86	\$376.30	\$244.05		
Total	Male	516	\$6,450.86	\$8,227.68	\$8,951.77	\$9,294.82	\$9,565.00	\$3,114.14	48.3%
	Female	452	\$3,996.00	\$1,776.82	\$724.09	\$343.05	\$270.18		
				\$1,102.14	\$368.45	\$162.40	\$352.21	\$1,985.20	49.7%

* Mary Beth O'Loughlin, "Gender, Tenure and Wages," Wyoming Labor Force Trends, August 1997, p. 2.

** Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

*** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

(1) Averaging with small counts is highly susceptible to statistical bias.

(2) This study failed to account for occupational shifting, leave-of-absences and business cycles; hence, the decrease in average pay in this table.

(3) This is calculated by summation of the differences in pay over the four year tenure period.

(4) This is calculated by dividing cumulative pay increase by the starting wage.

Wyoming Labor Force Trends, May 1993, p. 1.

3 Mary Bowler, "Women's Earnings: An Overview," **Monthly Labor Review**, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 1999, pp. 13-21.

4 "More women nowadays are either postponing or not ever having kids. Twenty-seven percent of women 30 to 34 in 1995 had never given birth; in 1976, the corresponding proportion was 16 percent. The same trend also holds for women in their late 30s (20 percent were childless in 1995, 11 percent were in 1976) and early 40s (18 percent and 10 percent, respectively)." **News Release**, November 25, 1997, <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-192.html> (June 30, 2000).

5 Mariann Johnson, "Is There Equality for Women in Wyoming's Labor Force?" **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, November 1993, pp. 1-3.

6 See endnote 2 above and Deborah A. Cobb-Clark and Yvonne Dunlop, "The Role of Gender in Job Promotions," **Monthly Labor Review**, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 1999, pp. 32-38.

7 Gregg Detweiler and Brett Judd, "The Relation of Age and Gender to Employment in Wyoming Parts One and Two," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, May 1996, pp. 1-4 and June 1996, pp. 1-5.

8 If employers apply goal directed strategies constrained only by economic conditions, then one may create a case for market

imposed discrimination as opposed to explicit discrimination based on gender, age or ethnicity. However, recent evidence suggests a strong link between competition and discrimination. For more information, see Sandra E. Black, "Investigating the Link Between Competition and Discrimination," **Monthly Labor Review**, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 1999, pp. 39-43.

9 For example, from an employer's perspective, a female employee may not accumulate the necessary tenure to support higher wages. With full- and part-time employment information, we could deduce that outside societal demands correlate with lower wages in the female worker population. Rather tenuously, research in this area has begun at the national level using CPS data, but without the necessary information to establish strong findings.¹⁵ Demands placed on women workers outside the workplace as well as subtle discriminatory practices by public and private industry are difficult to observe.

10 Mary Beth O'Loughlin, "Gender, Tenure and Wages," **Wyoming Labor Force Trends**, August 1997, pp. 1-5.

11 Errors exist in the analysis. The most salient involves the small sample sizes for Construction, Mining, Manufacturing, TCPU (Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities) and Wholesale Trade industries. The average wage calculated for these industries is not necessarily representative of working men and women in the state. Another

potential error was the failure to explain previous tenure as a possible reason for men earning a higher starting wage than women. And finally, the analysis failed to calculate a cumulative pay increase ratio. By calculating a cumulative pay increase ratio, women are shown to have pay increases across all industries slightly higher than men (49.7% and 48.3%, respectively).

12 David A. MacPherson and Barry T. Hirsch, "Wages and Gender Composition: Why Do Women's Jobs Pay Less?" **Journal of Labor Economics**, July 1995, pp. 426-471.

13 Burke Grandjean, "Use of Official Statistics in Administrative Databases," **Wyoming Program Performance Measurement through Unemployment Insurance Wage Record Follow-up**, March 1999, pp. 13-18.

14 However, due to a large sample of data collected in Wyoming (over 200,000 workers and 18,000 establishments per year), this statistically significant sample can effectively compensate for the miscapture of workers in the data.

15 Phillip N. Cohen and Susanne M. Bianchi, "Marriage, Children, and Women's Employment: What Do We Know?" **Monthly Labor Review**, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 1999, pp. 22-31.



Labor Force Changes in Wyoming and Its Neighbors, May 1999 Versus May 2000

by: Carol Kjar, Senior Statistician

Wyoming's labor force decreased slightly (-0.1%) in May 2000 over May 1999 while the six neighboring states experienced increases in their labor force numbers.¹ The Table shows the total labor force, the number of people employed and unemployed and the unemployment rate for May 1999 and May 2000 in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah. The month of May generally marks the beginning of the summer season when employment increases in the Services (includes tourism) and Construction industries.

Wyoming's six neighboring states all experienced an increase in their labor force numbers when May 2000 was compared to May 1999. Nebraska had the largest percent growth (4.6%) while Idaho, Utah and Colorado experienced similar growth percentages (2.9%, 2.7% and 2.5%, respectively). South Dakota had the smallest increase in labor force of the surrounding states with 0.9 percent growth.

The number of unemployed people decreased across Wyoming and the six surrounding states and consequently, all unemployment rates fell. Wyoming had the second largest decrease in the unemployment rate while having the third highest unemployment rate overall. The number of unemployed people may be influenced by seasonal factors such as the weather. However, the unemployment numbers also change because many unemployed workers may have found jobs while a small portion of unemployed people quit looking for work or left the state for jobs elsewhere.

1 Labor force is the sum of the employed individuals and the unemployed individuals who are available and looking for work.



Table: Wyoming and Its Neighboring States Labor Force Totals, May 1999 to May 2000
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 1999	May 2000	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Wyoming				
Labor Force	260,640	260,503	-137	-0.1%
Employed	247,806	251,069	3,263	1.3%
Unemployed	12,834	9,434	-3,400	-26.5%
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	3.6%	-0.013	-26.5%
Colorado				
Labor Force	2,238,037	2,293,339	55,302	2.5%
Employed	2,137,759	2,242,647	104,888	4.9%
Unemployed	65,522	50,692	-14,830	-22.6%
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.2%	-0.007	-24.1%
Idaho				
Labor Force	651,343	670,230	18,887	2.9%
Employed	617,055	642,798	25,743	4.2%
Unemployed	34,288	27,432	-6,856	-20.0%
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	4.1%	-0.012	-22.6%
Montana				
Labor Force	473,751	482,156	8,405	1.8%
Employed	450,960	460,592	9,632	2.1%
Unemployed	22,791	21,564	-1,227	-5.4%
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	4.5%	-0.003	-6.3%
Nebraska				
Labor Force	901,552	942,935	41,383	4.6%
Employed	875,420	917,661	42,241	4.8%
Unemployed	26,132	25,274	-858	-3.3%
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.7%	-0.002	-6.9%
South Dakota				
Labor Force	402,052	405,861	3,809	0.9%
Employed	391,641	397,219	5,578	1.4%
Unemployed	10,411	8,642	-1,769	-17.0%
Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.1%	-0.005	-19.2%
Utah				
Labor Force	1,070,366	1,099,453	29,087	2.7%
Employed	1,029,468	1,069,226	39,758	3.9%
Unemployed	40,898	30,227	-10,671	-26.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	2.7%	-0.011	-28.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, compiled by Carol Kjar, Research & Planning, Wyoming Department of Employment, June 2000.

Covered Employment and Wages for Fourth Quarter 1999

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Total employment, payroll and average weekly wage increased over the year from fourth quarter 1998 to fourth quarter 1999."

Unemployment Insurance (UI) covered employment¹ increased by 5,403 jobs or 2.4 percent during the fourth quarter of 1999 compared to fourth quarter 1998.² Employment grew at a much faster pace during fourth quarter 1999 than in fourth quarter 1998, when employment increased by 2,624 jobs or 1.2 percent. Total payroll increased 6.2 percent and average weekly wage increased by \$19 or 3.7 percent. Table 1 shows monthly employment by industry for the fourth quarter 1999.

Employment by Industry

Table 2 shows that employment decreased in four industries during the fourth quarter. The largest decrease occurred in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (FIRE) because of a "non-economic code change." A firm previously included in FIRE in 1998 was reclassified into the Services industry in 1999.³ Wholesale Trade employment fell by 145 jobs or 1.9

Table 1: Wyoming Monthly Employment for Fourth Quarter 1999 by Industry

	Monthly Employment		
	October	November	December
Total	229,308	224,385	225,146
Total Private	174,759	170,031	170,681
Agriculture	3,592	3,247	3,104
Mining	16,544	16,488	16,872
Construction	18,796	18,026	16,921
Manufacturing	11,398	11,247	11,266
TCPU*	11,390	11,520	11,601
Wholesale Trade	7,620	7,600	7,655
Retail Trade	46,289	45,566	46,035
FIRE**	8,042	8,018	8,040
Services	51,088	48,319	49,187
Total Government	54,549	54,354	54,465
State Government	11,446	11,467	11,468
Local Government	35,804	35,949	36,207
Federal Government	7,299	6,938	6,790

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

(Continued on page 8)

Table 2: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Fourth Quarter 1999 by Industry

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	Amount	Percent	1999	1998	Amount	Percent
Total	226,280	220,876	5,403	2.4%	\$1,561,931,513	\$1,470,893,315	\$91,038,198	6.2%	\$531	\$512	\$19	3.7%
Total Private	171,824	166,506	5,318	3.2%	\$1,187,127,468	\$1,109,755,026	\$77,372,442	7.0%	\$531	\$513	\$19	3.7%
Agriculture	3,314	3,021	294	9.7%	17,421,626	15,364,673	2,056,953	13.4%	404	391	13	3.3%
Mining	16,635	16,339	296	1.8%	214,108,380	206,240,706	7,867,674	3.8%	990	971	19	2.0%
Construction	17,914	16,397	1,517	9.3%	145,374,375	119,506,903	25,867,472	21.6%	624	561	64	11.3%
Manufacturing	11,173	11,252	-79	-0.7%	96,444,758	98,745,394	-2,300,636	-2.3%	664	675	-11	-1.6%
TCPU*	11,504	11,289	214	1.9%	123,325,043	105,719,097	17,605,946	16.7%	825	720	104	14.5%
Wholesale Trade	7,625	7,770	-145	-1.9%	65,396,655	62,770,934	2,625,721	4.2%	660	621	38	6.2%
Retail Trade	45,963	44,989	975	2.2%	171,677,592	171,531,065	146,527	0.1%	287	293	-6	-2.0%
FIRE**	8,033	8,573	-540	-6.3%	65,514,787	70,350,922	-4,836,135	-6.9%	627	631	-4	-0.6%
Services	49,531	46,876	2,656	5.7%	287,864,252	259,525,332	28,338,920	10.9%	447	426	21	5.0%
Total Government	54,456	54,370	86	0.2%	\$374,804,045	\$361,138,289	\$13,665,756	3.8%	\$529	\$511	\$19	3.6%
Federal Government	7,009	6,913	96	1.4%	72,208,816	69,610,105	2,598,711	3.7%	792	775	18	2.3%
State Government	11,460	11,416	45	0.4%	85,649,717	80,835,248	4,814,469	6.0%	575	545	30	5.5%
Local Government	35,987	36,042	-55	-0.2%	216,945,512	210,692,936	6,252,576	3.0%	464	450	14	3.1%

* Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities

** Finance Insurance & Real Estate

percent. Employment decreased slightly in Manufacturing, falling by 79 jobs or 0.7 percent. Local Government lost 55 jobs or 0.2 percent.

The Services industry created the largest number of new jobs in the fourth quarter. It added 2,656 jobs for a growth rate of 5.7 percent. Part of this increase was due to the reclassification from FIRE mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Within Services, large

job gains were seen in hotels & lodging places, business services, amusement & recreational services, health services and social services industries.

Construction employment grew at a healthy pace during the fourth quarter, adding 1,517 jobs or 9.3 percent. These jobs were located in many areas of the state and helped push up employment in the counties of Campbell, Teton, Laramie, Lincoln and Big Horn.

Retail Trade employment increased by 975 jobs or 2.2 percent. A large part of the growth was concentrated in miscellaneous retail, the industry which includes catalog retailers.

Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wage by Industry

Total payroll increased in all industries except Manufacturing

(Continued on page 9)

Table 3: Wyoming Average Monthly Employment, Total Payroll and Average Weekly Wages for Fourth Quarter 1999 by Region and County

	Average Monthly Employment				Total Payroll				Average Weekly Wage			
	Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change		Fourth Quarter		Change	
	1999	1998	No.	Percent	1999	1998	Amount	Percent	1999	1998	Amount	Percent
Total	226,280	220,876	5,403	2.4%	\$1,561,931,513	\$1,470,893,315	\$91,038,198	6.2%	\$531	\$512	\$19	3.7%
Northwest	35,044	34,453	590	1.7%	\$214,444,470	\$208,339,955	\$6,104,515	2.9%	\$471	\$465	\$6	1.2%
Big Horn	4,060	3,897	162	4.2%	28,273,819	24,621,338	3,652,481	14.8%	536	486	50	10.2%
Fremont	13,885	13,652	232	1.7%	83,628,537	86,455,183	-2,826,646	-3.3%	463	487	-24	-4.9%
Hot Springs	1,953	1,914	39	2.1%	10,367,347	9,268,961	1,098,386	11.9%	408	373	36	9.6%
Park	11,298	11,147	151	1.4%	68,359,817	64,638,563	3,721,254	5.8%	465	446	19	4.3%
Washakie	3,848	3,843	5	0.1%	23,814,950	23,355,910	459,040	2.0%	476	468	9	1.8%
Northeast	35,321	33,847	1,474	4.4%	\$251,974,987	\$236,102,374	\$15,872,613	6.7%	\$549	\$537	\$12	2.3%
Campbell	17,975	16,920	1,055	6.2%	151,897,590	138,685,994	13,211,596	9.5%	650	630	20	3.1%
Crook	1,847	1,857	-10	-0.6%	10,708,591	10,319,586	389,005	3.8%	446	427	19	4.4%
Johnson	2,637	2,488	150	6.0%	13,663,291	12,323,742	1,339,549	10.9%	399	381	17	4.6%
Sheridan	10,639	10,447	192	1.8%	62,794,531	62,919,613	-125,082	-0.2%	454	463	-9	-2.0%
Weston	2,222	2,135	88	4.1%	12,910,984	11,853,439	1,057,545	8.9%	447	427	20	4.6%
Southwest	49,090	47,848	1,242	2.6%	\$368,808,450	\$354,232,388	\$14,576,062	4.1%	\$578	\$569	\$8	1.5%
Lincoln	5,273	4,823	450	9.3%	32,080,533	30,418,323	1,662,210	5.5%	468	485	-17	-3.5%
Sublette	2,085	2,054	30	1.5%	12,832,475	12,125,731	706,744	5.8%	474	454	19	4.3%
Sweetwater	19,307	19,447	-140	-0.7%	167,540,125	167,588,880	-48,755	-0.0%	668	663	5	0.7%
Teton	14,447	13,395	1,052	7.9%	104,300,948	92,236,056	12,064,892	13.1%	555	530	26	4.8%
Uinta	7,979	8,129	-151	-1.9%	52,054,369	51,863,398	190,971	0.4%	502	491	11	2.3%
Southeast	58,342	57,326	1,016	1.8%	\$371,650,540	\$350,700,116	\$20,950,424	6.0%	\$490	\$471	\$19	4.1%
Albany	14,216	14,223	-7	-0.1%	82,619,430	79,558,641	3,060,789	3.8%	447	430	17	3.9%
Goshen	4,193	4,147	46	1.1%	21,534,919	20,732,227	802,692	3.9%	395	385	11	2.7%
Laramie	35,764	35,007	756	2.2%	243,076,984	228,311,085	14,765,899	6.5%	523	502	21	4.2%
Niobrara	816	839	-23	-2.8%	3,670,397	3,640,839	29,558	0.8%	346	334	12	3.7%
Platte	3,354	3,109	245	7.9%	20,748,810	18,457,324	2,291,486	12.4%	476	457	19	4.2%
Central	41,664	41,141	523	1.3%	\$287,761,686	\$274,181,580	\$13,580,106	5.0%	\$531	\$513	\$19	3.6%
Carbon	6,346	6,412	-66	-1.0%	38,243,775	39,873,357	-1,629,582	-4.1%	464	478	-15	-3.1%
Converse	4,345	4,395	-50	-1.1%	29,840,701	30,111,445	-270,744	-0.9%	528	527	1	0.2%
Natrona	30,973	30,334	639	2.1%	219,677,210	204,196,778	15,480,432	7.6%	546	518	28	5.4%
Nonclassified*	6,819	6,261	558	8.9%	\$67,291,380	\$47,336,902	\$19,954,478	42.2%	\$759	\$582	\$177	30.5%

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

and FIRE. In FIRE, the drop in payroll was associated with the reclassification of an employer into Services. FIRE payroll decreased by 6.9 percent, while employment decreased by 6.3 percent, causing average weekly wage to fall slightly.

In percentage terms, the largest payroll increase was reported in Construction. This industry's payroll increased by \$25.9 million or 21.6 percent. Since payroll increased even faster than employment, average weekly wage rose by \$64 or 11.3 percent. The increase in wages could be the result of employees working more hours.

The next largest increase in total payroll occurred in Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities (TCPU), with a gain of \$17.6 million or 16.7 percent. A large part of this gain was accounted for by bonuses in the communications industry. These bonuses helped increase average weekly wage by \$104 or 14.5 percent.

Employment by Region and County

Table 3 shows that the largest number of new jobs was created in Campbell County, where employment grew by 1,055 or 6.2 percent. It was closely followed by Teton County, which gained 1,052 jobs or 7.9 percent. Wyoming's two metropolitan areas, Natrona County and Laramie County, grew at a more modest pace, adding 639 and 756 jobs, respectively.

In Campbell County, significant employment gains were seen in

the oil & gas industry, as well as coal mining and Construction. Teton County's employment gains were found in Construction, business services and amusement & recreational services. In Natrona County, job losses in Local Government were more than offset by gains in Retail Trade, business services and health services. Laramie County saw employment increases in Construction, TCPU and business services.

Employment declined slightly in several counties during the fourth quarter. Uinta County lost the largest number of jobs (-151) and was followed by Sweetwater County (-140). Other counties which lost jobs were Carbon (-66), Converse (-50), Niobrara (-23), Crook (-10) and Albany (-7).

Uinta County's job losses were mainly in the oil & gas industry. In Sweetwater County, job gains in business services and engineering & management services were more than offset by job losses in many industries, especially Construction and nonmetallic minerals.

1 Approximately 85.0-90.0 percent of all workers in Wyoming are covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI). Some exceptions include the self-employed and many agricultural workers.

2 Comparative data for fourth quarter 1999 from neighboring states is not available.

State Unemployment Rates May 2000 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.0
Alaska	6.1
Mississippi	5.8
New Mexico	5.4
West Virginia	5.4
District of Columbia	5.1
California	4.6
Montana	4.5
Oregon	4.5
Washington	4.5
Hawaii	4.3
New York	4.3
Arkansas	4.2
Louisiana	4.2
Texas	4.2
Idaho	4.1
Illinois	4.1
Alabama	3.9
Kentucky	3.9
Pennsylvania	3.9
United States	3.9
Arizona	3.8
South Carolina	3.8
Florida	3.6
New Jersey	3.6
Ohio	3.6
Rhode Island	3.6
Wyoming	3.6
Georgia	3.3
Maine	3.3
Nevada	3.3
Delaware	3.2
Kansas	3.2
Maryland	3.2
North Carolina	3.1
Tennessee	3.1
Wisconsin	3.1
Indiana	3.0
Michigan	2.9
Oklahoma	2.8
Nebraska	2.7
Utah	2.7
Missouri	2.6
Connecticut	2.5
Minnesota	2.5
New Hampshire	2.5
Virginia	2.5
Vermont	2.4
Massachusetts	2.3
Colorado	2.2
North Dakota	2.2
South Dakota	2.1
Iowa	1.9

(Continued on page 10)

**State Unemployment Rates
May 2000
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.4
Alaska	6.1
Mississippi	5.8
West Virginia	5.6
New Mexico	5.5
District of Columbia	5.4
California	5.0
Oregon	5.0
Louisiana	4.9
Montana	4.9
Washington	4.7
New York	4.6
Arkansas	4.5
Texas	4.4
Alabama	4.3
Hawaii	4.3
Idaho	4.3
Illinois	4.3
United States	4.1
Kentucky	4.0
Ohio	4.0
Pennsylvania	4.0
Rhode Island	4.0
South Carolina	4.0
Arizona	3.8
Florida	3.8
New Jersey	3.8
Wyoming	3.8
Delaware	3.6
Georgia	3.6
Tennessee	3.6
Maine	3.5
Kansas	3.4
Maryland	3.4
Nevada	3.4
North Carolina	3.3
Wisconsin	3.3
Indiana	3.2
Michigan	3.2
Minnesota	3.0
Utah	2.9
Missouri	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
Oklahoma	2.8
New Hampshire	2.7
South Dakota	2.6
Massachusetts	2.5
Vermont	2.5
Virginia	2.5
Connecticut	2.4
North Dakota	2.4
Iowa	2.3
Colorado	2.2

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Drops in May

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Unemployment rates fell from April 2000 to May 2000 in all 23 counties."

Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent in May, down from 4.0 percent in April and well below its May 1999 level of 5.1 percent. This compares favorably with the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1 percent in May.

Total nonfarm employment increased by 3,400 jobs or 1.5 percent in May. The largest employment gains were seen in Services, Retail Trade and Government. Services employment increased by 1,300 jobs or 2.5 percent when compared with May 1999. Employment in Retail Trade rose by 1,300 jobs or 2.9 percent. Government gained 800 jobs as a result of temporary workers conducting the 2000 Census.

The number of unemployed individuals in the state decreased dramatically from May 1999

falling by 3,400 or 26.5 percent. This large drop in the number of unemployed caused statewide labor force to fall slightly over the year, losing 137 individuals or 0.1 percent. A declining labor force suggests that people are withdrawing from the labor force or leaving the state.

Unemployment rates fell from April to May in all 23 counties in Wyoming. The largest drops occurred in Lincoln County, which fell from 6.4 percent to 4.6 percent and in Teton County, which fell from 4.0 percent to 2.4 percent. Albany County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state, 1.5 percent in May. Washakie County had the highest unemployment rate in May, an estimated 6.1 percent.



(Continued from page 9)

3 Each year during the refiling survey, approximately one-third of the employers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) in Wyoming are contacted to confirm that they have been assigned the correct Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

code. If it is found that an employer has changed primary business activity, a new SIC code is assigned to reflect that change.



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment¹

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Total nonfarm employment increased by 3,400 jobs in May 2000 compared to May 1999. The largest employment gains were seen in Services, Retail Trade and Government."

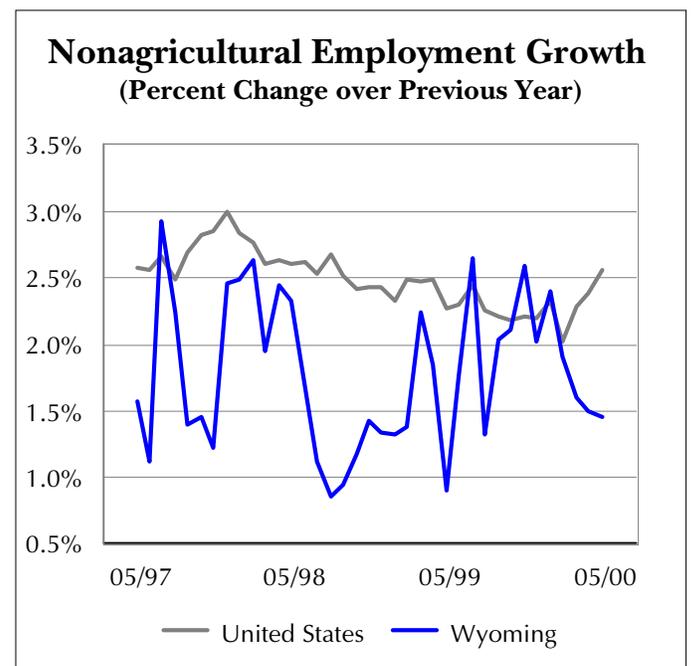
WYOMING STATEWIDE*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAY00(p)	APR00(r)	MAY 99	MAY 00	MAY 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	237.8	230.0	234.4	3.4	1.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	44.4	42.9	44.4	3.5	0.0
Mining	15.6	15.5	15.5	0.6	0.6
Coal Mining	4.6	4.5	4.7	2.2	-2.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	7.6	7.5	7.4	1.3	2.7
Crude Petrol-Natural Gas	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8
Oil & Gas Field Services	5.1	5.0	4.8	2.0	6.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3
Construction	17.9	16.6	18.0	7.8	-0.6
General Building Contractors	3.9	3.7	3.9	5.4	0.0
Heavy Construction	5.8	5.2	5.8	11.5	0.0
Special Trade Construction	8.2	7.7	8.3	6.5	-1.2
Manufacturing	10.9	10.8	10.9	0.9	0.0
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0	2.0
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.7	5.9	1.8	-1.7
Printing & Publishing	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	193.4	187.1	190.0	3.4	1.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.3	14.2	14.2	0.7	0.7
Transportation	9.1	9.1	9.1	0.0	0.0
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	3.7	3.8	3.7	-2.6	0.0
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Telephone Communications	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-3.3
Electric Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Trade	54.1	52.4	53.0	3.2	2.1
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.5	7.7	0.0	-2.6
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.2	3.4	0.0	-5.9
Retail Trade	46.6	44.9	45.3	3.8	2.9
Building Materials & Garden Supply	2.2	2.1	2.1	4.8	4.8
General Merchandise Stores	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0
Department Stores	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.6	5.4
Food Stores	5.6	5.5	5.5	1.8	1.8
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	8.2	8.0	8.1	2.5	1.2
Gas Stations	4.2	4.0	4.2	5.0	0.0
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishing Stores	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	17.2	16.4	16.8	4.9	2.4
Miscellaneous Retail	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.0	6.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.1	8.0	8.0	1.2	1.2
Depos-Nondepos & Security Brokers	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.4	5.0
Depository Institutions	3.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.1
Insurance	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Services	54.3	51.4	53.0	5.6	2.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	9.1	7.0	9.4	30.0	-3.2
Personal Services	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5.0	0.0
Business Services	8.2	8.0	8.1	2.5	1.2
Automotive & Misc. Repair Services	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.4
Amusements (Rec Services & Mot. Pics.)	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.9	9.4
Health Services	10.3	10.3	10.2	0.0	1.0
Offices of Doctors of Medicine	2.5	2.4	2.3	4.2	8.7
Legal Services	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.0	-7.7
Social Services	6.1	6.1	5.9	0.0	3.4
Membership Organizations	3.8	3.7	3.3	2.7	15.2
Engineering & Management	3.8	3.7	3.6	2.7	5.6
Government	62.6	61.1	61.8	2.5	1.3
Total Federal Government	8.0	7.5	7.2	6.7	11.1
Department of Defense	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Total State Government	13.9	13.7	13.8	1.5	0.7
State Education	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Total Local Government	40.7	39.9	40.8	2.0	-0.2
Local Hospitals	5.1	5.0	5.1	2.0	0.0
Local Education	23.2	22.9	22.9	1.3	1.3

LARAMIE COUNTY

LARAMIE COUNTY	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAY00(p)	APR00(r)	MAY 99	MAY 00	MAY 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.6	36.8	36.4	2.2	3.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.8	10.0
Mining & Construction	2.7	2.5	2.4	8.0	12.5
Manufacturing	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	33.2	32.6	32.4	1.8	2.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.7	0.0
Trade	8.7	8.5	8.4	2.4	3.6
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Services	8.4	8.2	8.3	2.4	1.2
Total Government	11.6	11.5	11.2	0.9	3.6
Federal Government	2.8	2.8	2.4	0.0	16.7
State Government	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Local Government	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	1.9

NATRONA COUNTY*

NATRONA COUNTY*	Employment in Thousands			Percent Change Total Employment	
	MAY00(p)	APR00(r)	MAY 99	MAY 00	MAY 99
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	32.6	32.1	31.6	1.6	3.2
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.1	5.0	5.2	2.0	-1.9
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-6.7
Mining	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Construction	2.0	1.9	2.1	5.3	-4.8
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	27.5	27.1	26.4	1.5	4.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Trade	8.6	8.6	8.4	0.0	2.4
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Services	10.0	9.8	9.3	2.0	7.5
Personal & Business Services	2.4	2.3	2.1	4.3	14.3
Health Services	2.9	2.9	2.7	0.0	7.4
Government	6.0	5.8	5.8	3.4	3.4
Local Government	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Local Education	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3
Local Education	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0



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

* Published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

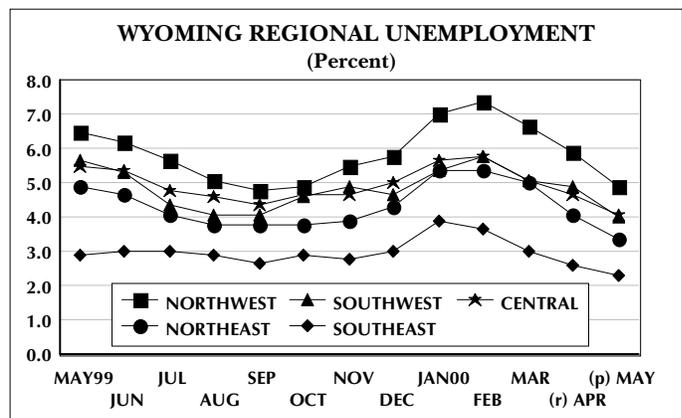
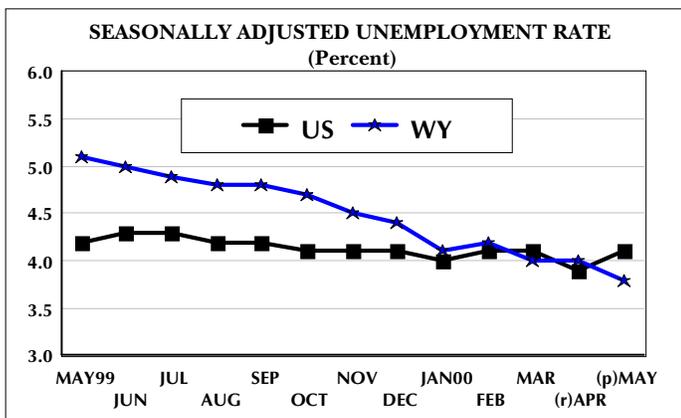
Wyoming Economic Indicators

by: Julie Barnish, Statistical Technician

"The number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming fell by 26.5 percent from May 1999 to May 2000."

	May 2000 (p)	April 2000 (r)	May 1999 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force (1)	260,503	260,928	260,640	-0.2	-0.1
Unemployed	9,434	11,167	12,834	-15.5	-26.5
Employed	251,069	249,761	247,806	0.5	1.3
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.6% /3.8%	4.3% /4.0%	4.9% /5.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	3.9% /4.1%	3.7% /3.9%	4.0% /4.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,710,000	7,737,000	7,895,000	-0.3	-2.3
As a percent of all workers	5.7%	5.7%	5.9%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	282,000	330,000	256,000	-14.5	10.2
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	3,140,000	3,043,000	3,281,000	3.2	-4.3
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$862.64	\$908.60	\$866.76	-5.1	-0.5
Average Weekly Hours	47.7	44.0	44.2	8.4	7.9
U.S. Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$763.29	\$777.22	\$753.61	-1.8	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	44.3	44.9	44.2	-1.3	0.2
Wyoming Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$609.16	\$616.22	\$621.83	-1.1	-2.0
Average Weekly Hours	38.8	39.3	40.3	-1.3	-3.7
U.S. Manufacturing					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$591.19	\$595.89	\$577.55	-0.8	2.4
Average Weekly Hours	41.4	41.7	41.7	-0.7	-0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated (2)	10,772	11,635	11,639	-7.4	-7.4
Benefits Paid	\$2,077,538	\$2,225,476	\$2,152,076	-6.6	-3.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$192.86	\$191.27	\$184.90	0.8	4.3
State Insured Covered Jobs (1)	214,912	206,722	212,326	4.0	1.2
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	171.3	171.2	166.2	0.1	3.1
Food & Beverages	167.8	167.2	164.2	0.4	2.2
Housing	167.8	167.6	163.0	0.1	2.9
Apparel	132.2	133.3	134.2	-0.8	-1.5
Transportation	153.1	152.9	144.2	0.1	6.2
Medical Care	259.4	258.8	249.5	0.2	4.0
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	103.1	102.9	102.2	0.2	0.9
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	101.8	101.8	100.4	0.0	1.4
Other Goods & Services	270.2	271.9	255.8	-0.6	5.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	131.6	130.7	124.7	0.7	5.5
Wyoming Building Permits					
New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized	144	179	187	-19.6	-23.0
Valuation	\$41,325,000	\$35,229,000	\$28,432,000	17.3	45.3

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



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

"Washakie County had the highest unemployment rate (6.1%) in May 2000."

REGION COUNTY	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	May 2000 (p)	Apr 2000 (r)	May 1999 (b)									
Northwest	46,672	46,302	47,234	44,404	43,581	44,143	2,268	2,721	3,091	4.9	5.9	6.5
Big Horn	5,819	5,870	5,850	5,501	5,502	5,442	318	368	408	5.5	6.3	7.0
Fremont	17,965	18,191	18,337	16,929	16,926	16,924	1,036	1,265	1,413	5.8	7.0	7.7
Hot Springs	2,445	2,450	2,457	2,364	2,358	2,321	81	92	136	3.3	3.8	5.5
Park	15,611	14,887	15,726	15,074	14,217	14,982	537	670	744	3.4	4.5	4.7
Washakie	4,832	4,904	4,864	4,536	4,578	4,474	296	326	390	6.1	6.6	8.0
Northeast	43,969	44,023	43,826	42,457	42,220	41,695	1,512	1,803	2,131	3.4	4.1	4.9
Campbell	19,666	19,764	19,625	19,035	19,063	18,573	631	701	1,052	3.2	3.5	5.4
Crook	3,103	3,048	3,075	2,985	2,906	2,947	118	142	128	3.8	4.7	4.2
Johnson	3,947	3,852	4,030	3,837	3,696	3,907	110	156	123	2.8	4.0	3.1
Sheridan	13,903	13,982	13,680	13,386	13,343	13,034	517	639	646	3.7	4.6	4.7
Weston	3,350	3,377	3,416	3,214	3,212	3,234	136	165	182	4.1	4.9	5.3
Southwest	51,658	50,819	51,955	49,611	48,321	49,003	2,047	2,498	2,952	4.0	4.9	5.7
Lincoln	6,506	6,390	6,633	6,206	5,982	6,225	300	408	408	4.6	6.4	6.2
Sublette	3,091	2,925	3,095	3,017	2,842	2,946	74	83	149	2.4	2.8	4.8
Sweetwater	20,334	20,408	20,784	19,489	19,469	19,461	845	939	1,323	4.2	4.6	6.4
Teton	11,185	10,629	10,849	10,920	10,200	10,518	265	429	331	2.4	4.0	3.1
Uinta	10,542	10,467	10,594	9,979	9,828	9,853	563	639	741	5.3	6.1	7.0
Southeast	69,641	70,600	69,054	68,049	68,754	67,071	1,592	1,846	1,983	2.3	2.6	2.9
Albany	17,212	17,469	17,128	16,949	17,167	16,805	263	302	323	1.5	1.7	1.9
Goshen	6,397	6,596	6,502	6,241	6,412	6,299	156	184	203	2.4	2.8	3.1
Laramie	39,965	40,529	39,212	38,936	39,356	37,973	1,029	1,173	1,239	2.6	2.9	3.2
Niobrara	1,344	1,351	1,341	1,318	1,320	1,303	26	31	38	1.9	2.3	2.8
Platte	4,723	4,655	4,871	4,605	4,499	4,691	118	156	180	2.5	3.4	3.7
Central	48,562	49,185	48,572	46,547	46,885	45,894	2,015	2,300	2,678	4.1	4.7	5.5
Carbon	8,213	8,203	8,527	7,878	7,774	8,088	335	429	439	4.1	5.2	5.1
Converse	6,475	6,542	6,536	6,214	6,235	6,226	261	307	310	4.0	4.7	4.7
Natrona	33,874	34,440	33,509	32,455	32,876	31,580	1,419	1,564	1,929	4.2	4.5	5.8
Statewide	260,503	260,928	260,640	251,069	249,761	247,806	9,434	11,167	12,834	3.6	4.3	4.9
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										3.8	4.0	5.1
U.S.....										3.9	3.7	4.0
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.1	3.9	4.2

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/00. Run Date 06/00.
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

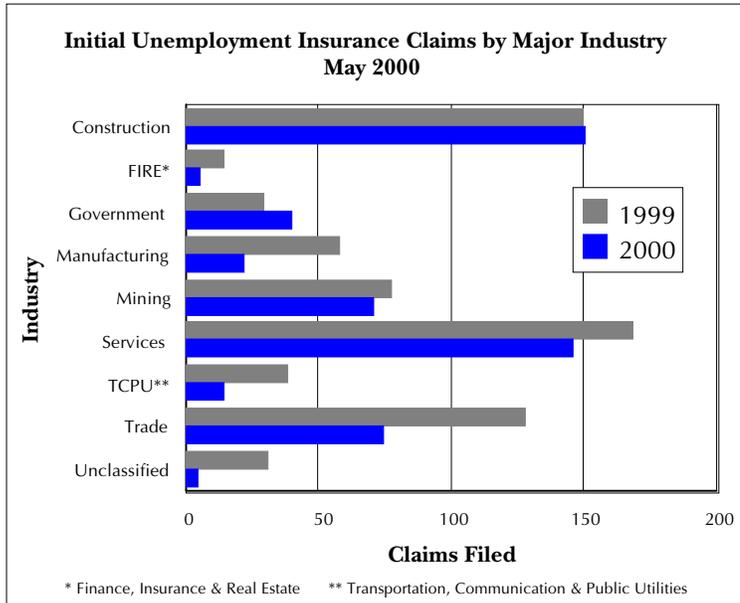
NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimated the 1999 annual average Wyoming unemployment rate at 4.9 percent.

The 90 percent confidence interval for this estimate suggests that in 9 out of 10 cases, the interval 4.3 to 5.5 percent would contain the actual rate.

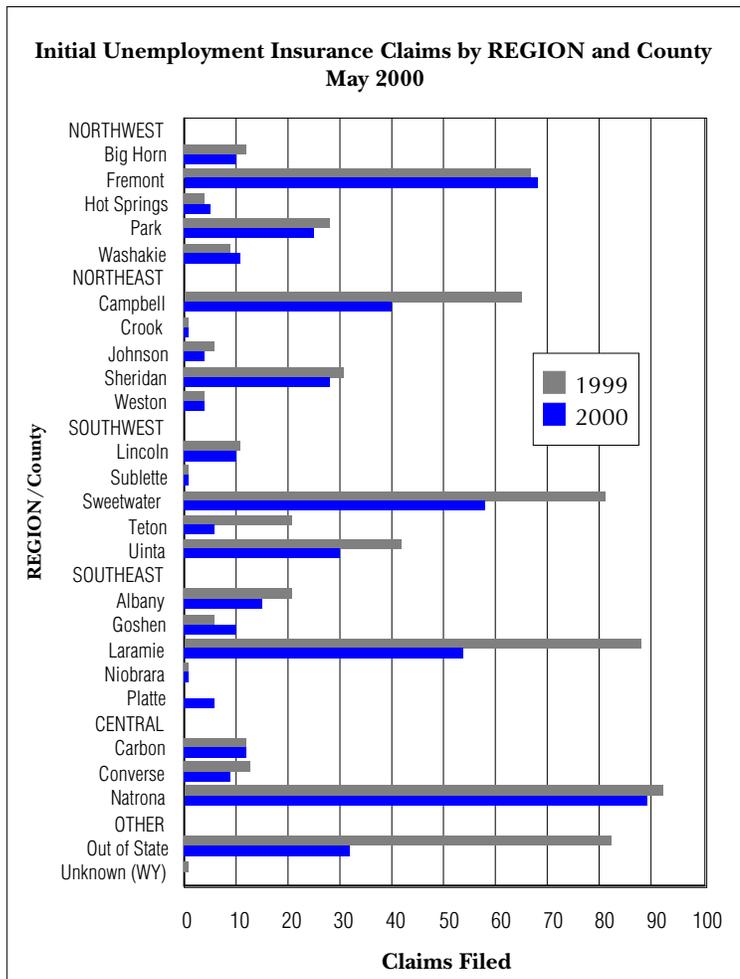
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Rich Peters, Labor Market Analyst

"Statewide over-the-year initial claims continue to decrease as we enter the peak season for Construction, Retail Trade and Services industry employment."



	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Claims Filed			Claims Filed	
	MAY 00	APR 00	MAY 99	APR 00	MAY 99
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	531	841	698	-36.9	-23.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	244	428	286	-43.0	-14.7
Manufacturing	22	102	58	-78.4	-62.1
Mining	71	112	78	-36.6	-9.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	55	96	64	-42.7	-14.1
Construction	151	214	150	-29.4	0.7
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	282	399	381	-29.3	-26.0
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	15	42	39	-64.3	-61.5
Transportation	14	39	27	-64.1	-48.1
Communications & Public Utilities	1	3	12	-66.7	-91.7
Trade	75	113	128	-33.6	-41.4
Wholesale Trade	13	11	27	18.2	-51.9
Retail Trade	62	102	101	-39.2	-38.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	6	5	15	20.0	-60.0
Services	146	202	169	-27.7	-13.6
Personal & Business Services	31	38	50	-18.4	-38.0
Health Services	9	15	17	-40.0	-47.1
Government	40	37	30	8.1	33.3
Local Government	13	14	12	-7.1	8.3
Local Education	10	1	2	900.0	400.0
UNCLASSIFIED	5	14	31	-64.3	-83.9



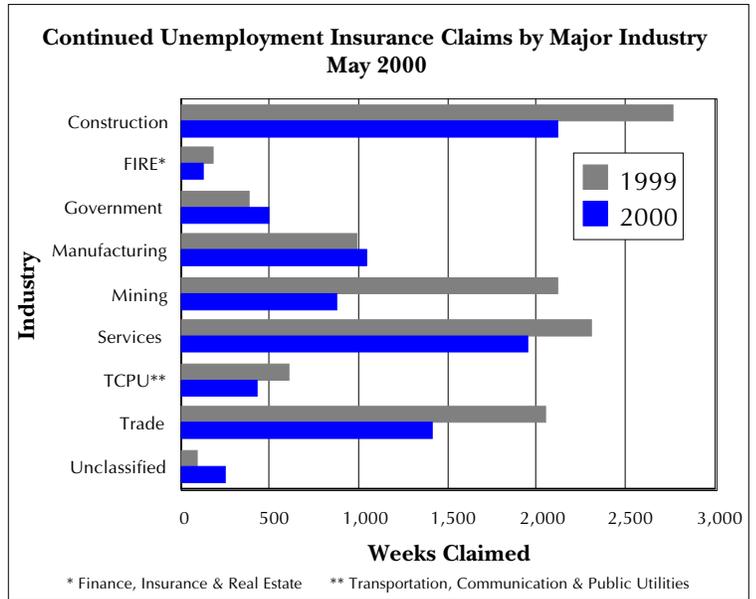
	Claims Filed			Percent Change	
	Claims Filed			Claims Filed	
	MAY 00	APR 00	MAY 99	APR 00	MAY 99
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	55	47	85	17.0	-35.3
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	15	18	26	-16.7	-42.3
Manufacturing	3	4	6	-25.0	-50.0
Mining	1	0	2	0.0	-50.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1	0	1	0.0	0.0
Construction	11	14	18	-21.4	-38.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	40	23	57	73.9	-29.8
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	1	1	8	0.0	-87.5
Transportation	1	1	4	0.0	-75.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0	0	4	0.0	0.0
Trade	11	6	23	83.3	-52.2
Wholesale Trade	2	1	2	100.0	0.0
Retail Trade	9	5	21	80.0	-57.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2	1	5	100.0	-60.0
Services	21	10	14	110.0	50.0
Personal & Business Services	5	4	4	25.0	25.0
Health Services	0	1	1	0.0	0.0
Government	5	5	7	0.0	-28.6
Local Government	0	1	2	0.0	0.0
Local Education	0	1	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	0	6	2	0.0	0.0
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	90	103	90	-12.6	0.0
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	41	72	30	-43.1	36.7
Manufacturing	5	28	4	-82.1	25.0
Mining	10	14	11	-28.6	-9.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	10	13	8	-23.1	25.0
Construction	26	30	15	-13.3	73.3
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	48	31	55	54.8	-12.7
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	1	2	8	-50.0	-87.5
Transportation	1	2	6	-50.0	-83.3
Communications & Public Utilities	0	0	2	0.0	0.0
Trade	20	12	17	66.7	17.6
Wholesale Trade	3	3	4	0.0	-25.0
Retail Trade	17	9	13	88.9	30.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	3	1	1	200.0	200.0
Services	17	12	28	41.7	-39.3
Personal & Business Services	4	5	10	-20.0	-60.0
Health Services	3	1	5	200.0	-40.0
Government	7	4	1	75.0	600.0
Local Government	2	3	0	-33.3	0.0
Local Education	1	0	0	0.0	0.0
UNCLASSIFIED	1	0	5	0.0	-80.0

Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

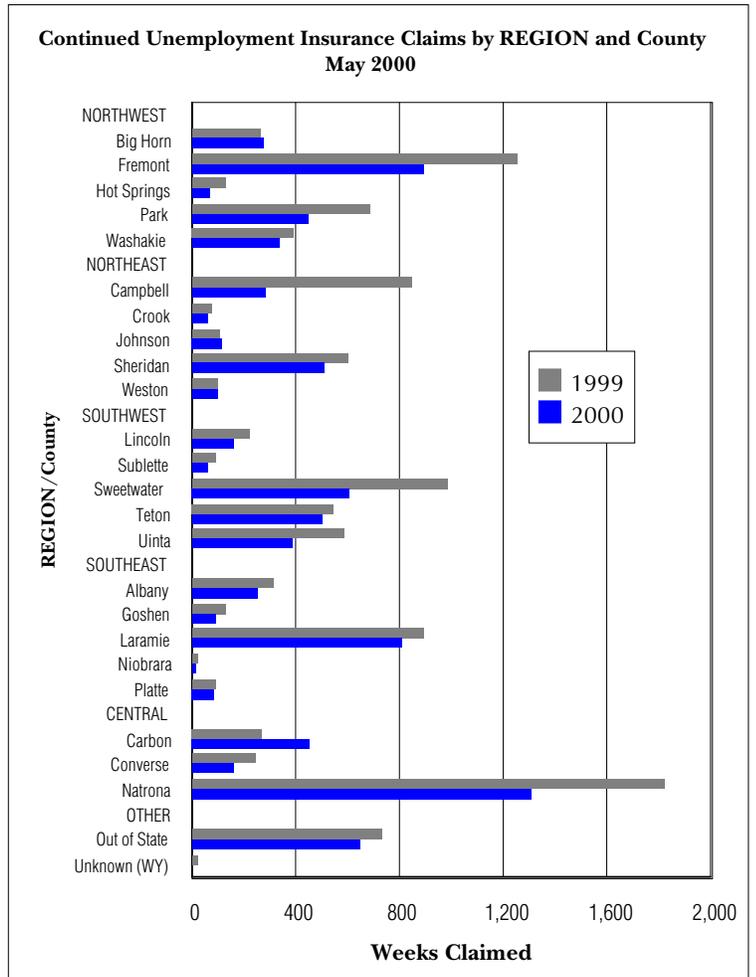
by: Rich Peters, Labor Market Analyst

"Over-the-month unique claimants declined for May (-32.9%) as Construction heats up around the state."

	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAY 00	APR 00	MAY 99	APR 00	MAY 99
				MAY 00	MAY 00
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	8,728	11,142	11,521	-21.7	-24.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	2,737	4,081	3,898	-32.9	-29.8
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	4,049	5,269	5,881	-23.2	-31.2
Manufacturing	1,042	1,022	986	2.0	5.7
Mining	882	1,001	2,121	-11.9	-58.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	720	777	1,893	-7.3	-62.0
Construction	2,125	3,246	2,774	-34.5	-23.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	4,429	5,566	5,543	-20.4	-20.1
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	430	521	612	-17.5	-29.7
Transportation	349	438	494	-20.3	-29.4
Communications & Public Utilities	81	83	118	-2.4	-31.4
Trade	1,416	1,658	2,051	-14.6	-31.0
Wholesale Trade	171	189	327	-9.5	-47.7
Retail Trade	1,245	1,469	1,724	-15.2	-27.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	129	188	184	-31.4	-29.9
Services	1,954	2,360	2,312	-17.2	-15.5
Personal & Business Services	447	528	527	-15.3	-15.2
Health Services	237	263	302	-9.9	-21.5
Government	500	839	384	-40.4	30.2
Local Government	166	201	223	-17.4	-25.6
Local Education	66	71	58	-7.0	13.8
UNCLASSIFIED	250	307	97	-18.6	157.7



	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAY 00	APR 00	MAY 99	APR 00	MAY 99
				MAY 00	MAY 00
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	815	1,078	895	-24.4	-8.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	251	398	320	-36.9	-21.6
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	318	521	382	-39.0	-16.8
Manufacturing	28	22	52	27.3	-46.2
Mining	10	13	26	-23.1	-61.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	7	9	22	-22.2	-68.2
Construction	280	486	304	-42.4	-7.9
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	439	517	502	-15.1	-12.5
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	65	94	86	-30.9	-24.4
Transportation	48	79	47	-39.2	2.1
Communications & Public Utilities	17	15	39	13.3	-56.4
Trade	137	149	199	-8.1	-31.2
Wholesale Trade	11	17	31	-35.3	-64.5
Retail Trade	126	132	168	-4.5	-25.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	21	31	48	-32.3	-56.3
Services	151	171	142	-11.7	6.3
Personal & Business Services	81	87	52	-6.9	55.8
Health Services	24	34	37	-29.4	-35.1
Government	65	72	27	-9.7	140.7
Local Government	5	15	10	-66.7	-50.0
Local Education	2	2	6	0.0	-66.7
UNCLASSIFIED	58	40	11	45.0	427.3



	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
	MAY 00	APR 00	MAY 99	APR 00	MAY 99
				MAY 00	MAY 00
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	1,315	1,523	1,824	-13.7	-27.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	404	541	583	-25.3	-30.7
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	584	770	935	-24.2	-37.5
Manufacturing	131	111	142	18.0	-7.7
Mining	122	150	372	-18.7	-67.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	103	113	311	-8.8	-66.9
Construction	331	509	421	-35.0	-21.4
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	683	709	874	-3.7	-21.9
Transportation, Communication & Public Utilities	59	73	72	-19.2	-18.1
Transportation	45	64	55	-29.7	-18.2
Communications & Public Utilities	14	9	17	55.6	-17.6
Trade	274	287	321	-4.5	-14.6
Wholesale Trade	61	60	71	1.7	-14.1
Retail Trade	213	227	250	-6.2	-14.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	26	42	44	-38.1	-40.9
Services	282	268	395	5.2	-28.6
Personal & Business Services	73	71	104	2.8	-29.8
Health Services	87	73	101	19.2	-13.9
Government	42	39	42	7.7	0.0
Local Government	19	12	33	58.3	-42.4
Local Education	7	4	11	75.0	-36.4
UNCLASSIFIED	48	44	15	9.1	220.0

After 5 Days Return to:
**Wyoming Department of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602**

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

