

# TRENDS

## States of Origin for Wyoming Workers

by: Sylvia D. Jones, Senior Research Analyst

*By examining decennial census information, Research & Planning found strong evidence that nonresidents are becoming an increasingly large percentage of Wyoming's population. Although Wyoming had a relatively low population growth rate, few states had a higher percentage of new residents. Also, the majority of those who left the state were between the ages of 25 and 34, which suggests the aging of the state's population and its reliance on nonresident labor is likely to continue. In order to fill the state's labor needs, recruiters will need to focus their efforts on attracting and retaining permanent residents, not just workers.*

With substantial projected job growth and an aging workforce moving toward retirement, attracting workers to Wyoming and keeping them here has become a primary concern. In the December 2005 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, Tom Gallagher explored the question of the state of origin for nonresident Wyoming Construction and Natural Resources & Mining workers. This article further examines which states contribute the largest number of individuals to our workforce and which states contribute workers who are most likely to stay and become residents of Wyoming.

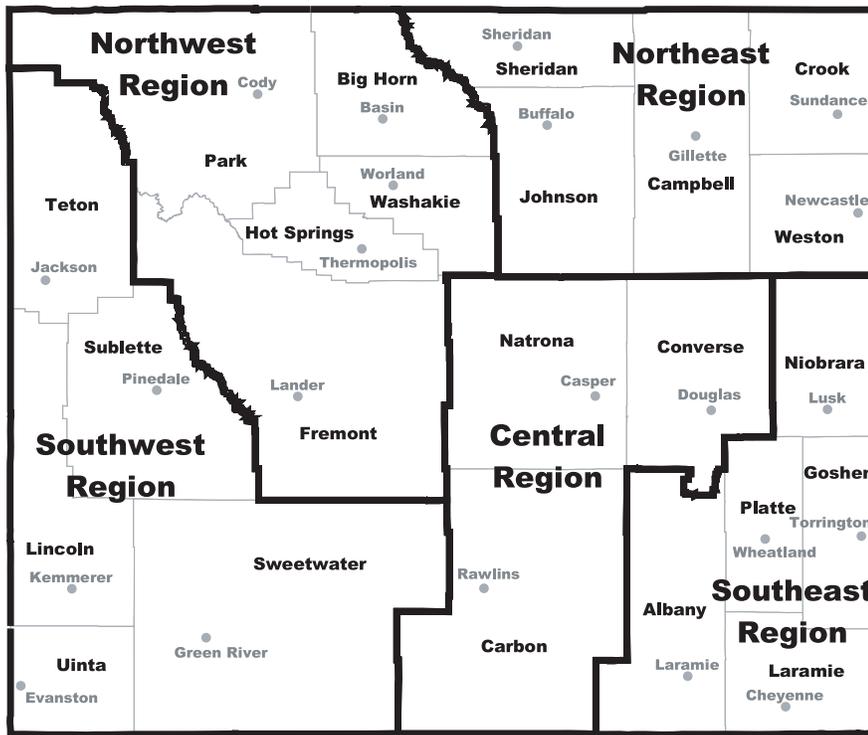
There is strong evidence to suggest that nonresidents are becoming an increasingly large percentage of our population (Glover, 2005). There has also been considerable discussion about the exodus of younger residents (Jones, 2005; Saulcy 2004). The scope of the problem is difficult to explain. Most people see that the economy is continuing to grow, jobs are being created, and for the most part, those jobs are being filled. What people do not see, however, are the underlying dynamics of the population.

(Text continued on page 3)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Data from the most recent benefits survey show that the percentage of companies offering child care benefits to their employees has dropped since 2004....page 8**
- **From 2004 to 2005, Wyoming prevailing wage requests increased, although the gain was more modest than the increase from 2003 to 2004. The largest increase was for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations. This increase might be a sign that healthcare providers are increasingly using foreign workers to fill positions in Wyoming....page 9**

## Wyoming Regions, Counties, and County Seats



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**Table 1: States Ordered by Population Growth and Percentage of New Residents Over 5 Years of Age, 1995-2000**

	<b>Order of New Residents</b>	<b>Order of Population Growth</b>
Nevada	51	51
District of Columbia	50	21
Arizona	49	50
Colorado	48	49
Alaska	47	25
Idaho	46	43
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8</b>
Florida	44	47
Delaware	43	42
Georgia	42	48
Virginia	41	33
New Hampshire	40	35
Hawaii	39	13
Utah	38	46
Oregon	37	39
North Carolina	36	45
Washington	35	38
New Mexico	34	40
Montana	33	12
South Carolina	32	37
Vermont	31	20
Kansas	30	10
Maryland	29	28
Rhode Island	28	31
Tennessee	27	36
Oklahoma	26	27
Connecticut	25	17
Arkansas	24	34
Nebraska	23	16
South Dakota	22	11
North Dakota	21	2
Massachusetts	20	23
Texas	19	44
New Jersey	18	30
Missouri	17	24
Maine	16	7
Kentucky	15	19
Minnesota	14	32
Mississippi	13	29
Indiana	12	18
Iowa	11	5
California	10	41
Alabama	9	15
Illinois	8	22
West Virginia	7	1
New York	6	26
Wisconsin	5	14
Pennsylvania	4	4
Louisiana	3	9
Michigan	2	6
Ohio	1	3

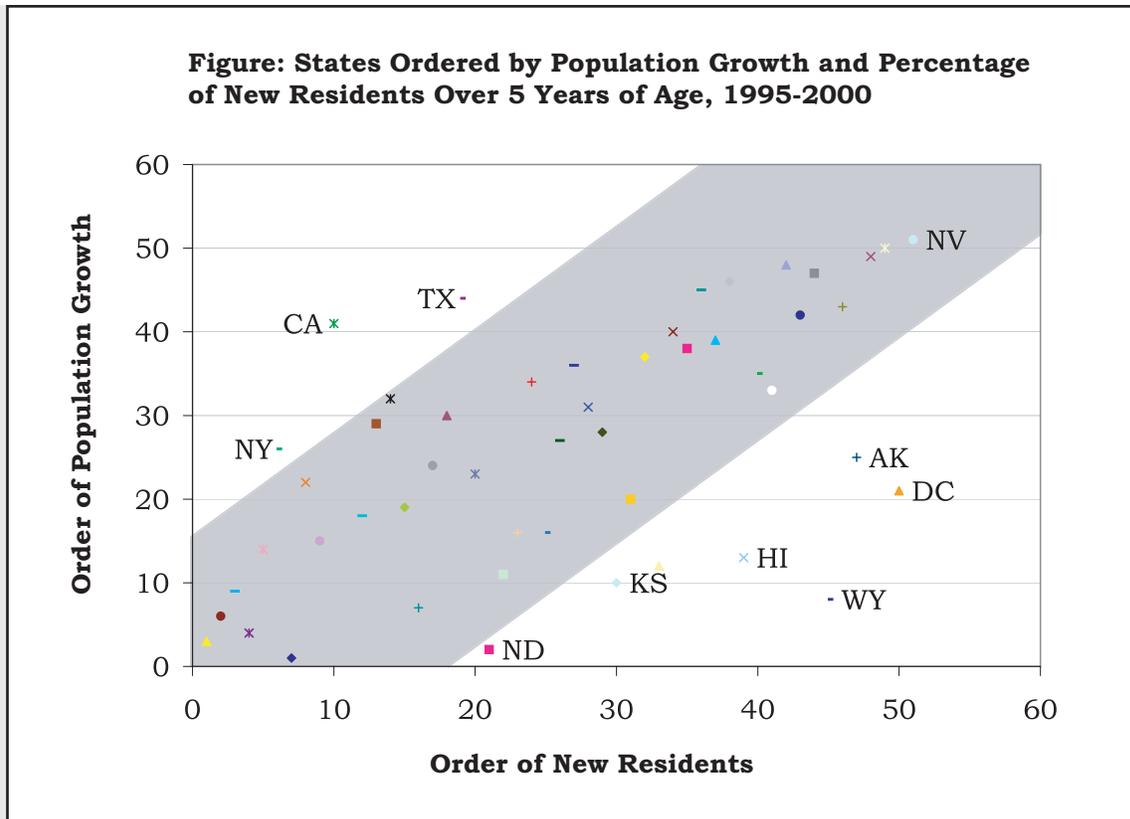
Note: States are ordered from highest (51) to lowest (1). For example, Nevada has the highest number of new residents and the highest population growth.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data

At every decennial census, information is gathered regarding where individuals lived 5 years prior. That information is later presented as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Summary File 3. We used this information to order the states according to the percentage of their population age 5 and older in 2000 which did not live in that state in 1995. In other words, the states were ordered according to their percentage of new residents. Nevada (see Table 1) had the largest number of individuals over age 5, who had relocated to the state between 1995 and 2000. As such, Nevada was given an order number of 51 (includes the District of Columbia).

Table 1 also shows the states ordered on population growth between 1995 and 2000. Nevada, again, was given the highest number because its population growth was larger than any other state's (see Figure, page 4). The graph shows most of the states lie along the center of the distribution. This means that they were ordered very similarly on both population growth and percentage of new residents. Nevada, for instance, was ranked highest on both measures.

On the other hand, Wyoming (along with Hawaii and the District of Columbia) is plotted below the majority of other states. These states had a high percentage of new residents but low population growth. Specifically, between 1995 and 2000, the net population growth of Wyoming was only 16,307 (or 3.7%), making it the 8th lowest state for population growth. However, only six states had a higher percentage of new residents. Over the same years, 78,071 people moved into the state, but the total number of residents grew by only 16,307. This equates to a net of 61,764 people leaving the state during the second half of the decade. Essentially this means that for every new Wyoming resident, five people were needed in order to compensate for attrition.



The out-migration during the period 1995-2000 affected more than the population estimate. Rather than being uniformly distributed among the age groups, the majority of those who left the state were between the ages of 25 and 34 (Gallagher, 2003). The result was a resident population in Wyoming older than the U.S. average. The significance of an older population distribution is becoming clear. The proportion of residents approaching retirement age is increasing while the share of younger residents is decreasing. Reliance on nonresident labor is rising and will likely continue to rise over coming years. If the trend of requiring five people in order to retain one continues, Wyoming could face an unprecedented labor shortage within the next 10 years.

### Workers

In this light, recruiting labor is more important than ever. Part of the process is understanding who to recruit. We need to understand not only who will come to Wyoming but also who will stay. There are several factors involved in a successful relocation. People tend to move to (and stay in) places they are comfortable. Family ties, similar geography and climate, and similar area demographics are important. Individuals from Miami, a highly populated, ethnically diverse city situated next to the ocean, will likely experience difficulties

adjusting to Wyoming. For these reasons it seems likely that recruitment efforts would be most successful in surrounding states.

**If the trend of requiring five people in order to retain one continues, Wyoming could face an unprecedented labor shortage within the next 10 years.**

**Table 2: States With the Largest Contribution to Labor in Wyoming According to the Internal Revenue Service, 2004**

State of Origin	Number of Tax Returns Filed		Number of Exemptions Claimed	
	n	%	n	%
CO	1,764	0.9	3,355	0.8
CA	894	0.5	1,712	0.4
UT	720	0.4	1,624	0.4
MT	670	0.3	1,245	0.3
TX	604	0.3	1,201	0.3
NE	468	0.2	930	0.2
AZ	454	0.2	868	0.2
SD	408	0.2	812	0.2
Foreign	378	0.2	652	0.2
WA	371	0.2	712	0.2
ID	352	0.2	769	0.2
FL	278	0.1	510	0.1
NV	276	0.1	601	0.1
OR	262	0.1	484	0.1
IL	198	0.1	353	0.1
NM	198	0.1	381	0.1
MN	181	0.1	290	0.1
MI	174	0.1	314	0.1
PA	169	0.1	282	0.1
KS	165	0.1	357	0.1
Balance of States	2,044	1.1	3,878	0.9
<b>Total</b>				
Migrants <sup>a</sup>	11,028	5.7	21,330	5.1
Non-Migrants	180,810	94.3	394,574	94.9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>191,838</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>415,904</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup>Migrants refers to those persons whose previous-year tax return address lists a different county or state than their current-year tax return address.

Table 2 shows Internal Revenue Service (IRS) internal migration data for 2003-2004. Migration data show from where new residents move. Most of those who move to Wyoming and stay long enough to file their taxes in the state come from Colorado, California, Utah, Montana, and Texas. This is similar to the state of origin found for workers in Wage Records. The number of exemptions claimed represents an estimate of the total number of new residents associated with each tax return.

Table 3 (see page 6) lists the states of origin for all of Wyoming's workers in 2004. The state of origin is defined as the state which issued the individual's social security number and is denoted by the first 3 digits. Residency is defined by the joint research of Wyoming and several other states (Jones, 2004).

As seen in the table, over half of the workers (52.5%) were Wyoming natives (their social security numbers were issued in Wyoming.) The rest represented all of the U.S. states and territories. Of workers born in states other than Wyoming, those from Nebraska or North Dakota were the most likely to become residents of Wyoming. For both states, 80.5% of individuals who moved to Wyoming became residents. Iowa was almost as high, with 80.2% of migrating workers becoming residents. Only three of Wyoming's bordering states are represented in the top 10: Nebraska, South Dakota, and Montana.

At the other end of the spectrum, workers from the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico (25.6%) and the Virgin Islands (10.2%) were the least likely to become Wyoming residents. Washington D.C. and Mississippi followed closely with less than half (40.8% and 49.5%, respectively) becoming residents.

Table 4 (see page 7) lists the 20 states from which the most nonresident workers in 2004 originated. The highest was California, which contributed 7,221 workers. Colorado's contribution to Wyoming's workforce (4,861) was nearly 35% less than that of California, but the highest among Wyoming's bordering states. All of the bordering states are represented in the top 10, along with Texas, Arizona, and Washington.

Table 5 (see page 7) is the same as Table 4 except it is ranked by the number of nonresident workers who eventually became permanent residents. Colorado, a border state, is the largest source state for new residents with 12,625 workers. California follows closely at 12,362. All of the states surrounding Wyoming are in the top 5, with the exception of Idaho, which contributes the 11th highest number of residents (3,515).

When considering where to recruit workers, it is important to understand that getting workers to Wyoming is not the same as gaining new permanent residents. States that contribute considerable numbers of workers are not necessarily the states that contribute the most long-term residents. Workers from Texas and Arizona, states from which large numbers of workers originated, were about as likely to work in Wyoming and then leave the state as they were to become residents. Perhaps a better recruitment strategy would be to focus on states with large numbers of contributed workers that also have a high percentage who become residents, such as Nebraska or South Dakota.

**Table 3: State of Origin of Individuals Who Worked at Any Time in Wyoming by Residency Status, 2004**

State of Origin <sup>a</sup>	Nonresidents		Residents		Total
	n	%	n	%	
WY		0.0	139,211	100.0	139,211
NE	1,737	19.5	7,186	80.5	8,923
ND	920	19.5	3,794	80.5	4,714
IA	771	19.8	3,129	80.2	3,900
SD	1,897	20.5	7,350	79.5	9,247
MN	1,041	22.6	3,558	77.4	4,599
WI	806	23.9	2,567	76.1	3,373
MI	1,097	25.8	3,162	74.2	4,259
MT	2,769	25.9	7,939	74.1	10,708
PA	1,028	26.0	2,926	74.0	3,954
OH	999	26.0	2,841	74.0	3,840
IN	590	27.3	1,573	72.7	2,163
KS	1,010	27.6	2,647	72.4	3,657
IL	1,552	27.8	4,040	72.2	5,592
CO	4,861	27.8	12,625	72.2	17,486
WV	191	28.0	490	72.0	681
NJ	541	28.5	1,357	71.5	1,898
NY	1,358	30.2	3,144	69.8	4,502
NV	550	30.5	1,252	69.5	1,802
MO	943	31.1	2,086	68.9	3,029
CT	310	31.5	673	68.5	983
RI	63	32.1	133	67.9	196
MD	406	32.3	850	67.7	1,256
NH	178	32.8	364	67.2	542
UT	3,680	32.9	7,506	67.1	11,186
DE	65	33.0	132	67.0	197
AK	272	33.4	542	66.6	814
VA	479	33.8	939	66.2	1,418
ME	192	34.4	366	65.6	558
NM	996	34.6	1,881	65.4	2,877
KY	307	35.2	566	64.8	873
FL	886	35.4	1,620	64.6	2,506
OK	1,047	35.4	1,907	64.6	2,954
CA	7,221	36.9	12,362	63.1	19,583
VT	173	37.0	294	63.0	467
OR	1,276	37.9	2,090	62.1	3,366
AR	391	38.3	631	61.7	1,022
MA	691	38.4	1,107	61.6	1,798
NC	432	39.0	677	61.0	1,109
WA	1,794	39.1	2,794	60.9	4,588
TN	383	39.7	581	60.3	964
SC	254	42.1	350	57.9	604
PI	32	42.1	44	57.9	76
GA	512	42.8	685	57.2	1,197
ID	2,643	42.9	3,515	57.1	6,158
HI	212	43.4	276	56.6	488
AL	397	44.9	487	55.1	884
TX	4,097	44.9	5,023	55.1	9,120
LA	823	45.8	972	54.2	1,795
AZ	1,901	46.3	2,208	53.7	4,109
RR <sup>b</sup>	50	47.2	56	52.8	106
MS	384	50.5	377	49.5	761
DC	155	59.2	107	40.8	262
PR	131	74.4	45	25.6	176
VI	53	89.8	6	10.2	59
ER <sup>c</sup>	1,217	90.9	122	9.1	1,339
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58,764</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>265,165</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>323,929</b>

<sup>a</sup>State from which social security number was issued.

<sup>b</sup>Social security number issued by railroad.

<sup>c</sup>Invalid social security numbers.

**Table 4: States With the Largest Contribution to Nonresident Labor in Wyoming, 2004**

State of Origin	Nonresidents		Residents		Total n
	n	%	n	%	
CA	7,221	36.9	12,362	63.1	19,583
CO	4,861	27.8	12,625	72.2	17,486
TX	4,097	44.9	5,023	55.1	9,120
UT	3,680	32.9	7,506	67.1	11,186
MT	2,769	25.9	7,939	74.1	10,708
ID	2,643	42.9	3,515	57.1	6,158
AZ	1,901	46.3	2,208	53.7	4,109
SD	1,897	20.5	7,350	79.5	9,247
WA	1,794	39.1	2,794	60.9	4,588
NE	1,737	19.5	7,186	80.5	8,923
IL	1,552	27.8	4,040	72.2	5,592
NY	1,358	30.2	3,144	69.8	4,502
MI	1,097	25.8	3,162	74.2	4,259
MN	1,041	22.6	3,558	77.4	4,599
PA	1,028	26.0	2,926	74.0	3,954
KS	1,010	27.6	2,647	72.4	3,657
OH	999	26.0	2,841	74.0	3,840
ND	920	19.5	3,794	80.5	4,714
WI	806	23.9	2,567	76.1	3,373
IA	771	19.8	3,129	80.2	3,900
Balance of States	15,582	37.8	25,638	62.2	41,220
<b>Grand Total<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>58,764</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>125,954</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>184,718</b>

<sup>a</sup>Excludes workers native to Wyoming.**Table 5: States With the Largest Contribution to Resident Labor in Wyoming, 2004**

State of Origin	Nonresidents		Residents		Total n
	n	%	n	%	
CO	4,861	27.8	12,625	72.2	17,486
CA	7,221	36.9	12,362	63.1	19,583
MT	2,769	25.9	7,939	74.1	10,708
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<sup>a</sup>Excludes workers native to Wyoming.

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## Excerpt From *Wages and Benefits in Wyoming*

by: Lisa Knapp, Research Analyst

Child care assistance has positive effects on the economy and the labor force, but few employers offer it to their employees as a benefit. Data from the most recent Wyoming benefits survey show the percent of companies offering child care benefits to their employees has dropped since 2004, from 3.6% to 2.7% for full-time employees and from 2.0% to 1.0% for part-time employees.

National labor force demographics have changed substantially over time. In 1947 only 25% of mothers were in the labor force, compared to 75% today, and only 10% of families were headed by a single parent, compared to 25% in 1996 (U.S. Department of Treasury, 1998). Child care costs \$3,000 to \$6,000 per child per year, depending on location, the number of children enrolled, and their ages. Middle-class families spend an estimated 7% of their income on child care, while low-income families may spend 25% or more (Schulman, K., 2000).

Studies have shown child care assistance increases labor force participation, especially for women. The U.S. Department of Treasury (1998) reports that a 10% decrease in child care costs may result in a 2% to 8% increase in the likelihood of a married woman joining the workforce (1998). Other studies have shown low income women who receive child care assistance are more likely to find jobs, stay employed longer, work more hours, and earn more than those who receive no assistance (Danziger, Ananat, & Browning, 2004).

Employers offering child care benefits report many positive effects, such as lower levels of absenteeism and turnover, higher levels of productivity, and greater employee morale (U.S. Department of Treasury, 1998). One study found that employer-sponsored

child care was not only affordable, but also profitable. (Connelly, DeGraff, & Willis, 2004).

In Wyoming, companies in Education & Healthcare were most likely to offer child care benefits in 2005 (9.7%). The industries least likely to offer child care benefits included Information (0.0%), Leisure & Hospitality (0.4%), and Construction (0.9%).

Large employers are more likely than small employers to offer child care benefits. In 2005, 6.0% of Wyoming employers with more than 50 employees offered full-time employees child care benefits, down from 7.8% in 2004. In contrast, only 2.9% of employers with four or fewer employees offered child care benefits to full-time employees compared to 3.2% in 2004.

Although research has shown employer-provided child care assistance can be beneficial to employers and employees, it is rarely seen in benefit packages, especially in Wyoming.

For a copy of the complete publication, see Research & Planning's website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI> or call (307) 473-3807.

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## Foreign Labor Certification Prevailing Wage Requests Increase

by: Sara Saulcy, Senior Economist

*To prevent foreign workers from displacing workers from the United States at below-market wages, employers who seek to hire foreign labor must request a prevailing wage determination. The intent of this process is to ensure that the employer pays the prevailing wage or the actual wage paid by the employer to workers with similar skills and qualifications, whichever is higher. From 2004 to 2005, Wyoming prevailing wage requests increased, although the gain was more modest than the increase from 2003 to 2004. By occupation, the largest increase was for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations. This increase might be a sign that healthcare providers are increasingly using foreign workers to fill positions in Wyoming.*

Wyoming Foreign Labor Certification prevailing wage requests received by Research & Planning (R&P) increased by a modest 27 requests (8.0%) from 2004 to 2005. This is in contrast to the gains from 2003 to 2004 in which the number of requests rose by 134, a jump of 65.4%. In this article we discuss recent changes to the prevailing wage determination process. We also look at the regions and types of occupations in which increases in 2005 were concentrated.

### Background

As part of the U.S. Department of Labor's Foreign Labor Certification process for incoming foreign workers, a prevailing wage determination from a State Workforce Agency is typically required for a given occupation and geographic location. R&P, in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services' Jackson office, is the agency that makes wage determinations for Wyoming.

Beginning March 8, 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and

Training Administration (ETA) instituted changes to prevailing wage determination regulations (2004). Although several aspects of the wage determination process changed, the modification of the validity period had the greatest impact in Wyoming. In the past, wage determinations were valid for 90 days after the date of response from the agency. States may now set their own validity periods provided that determinations are valid for at least 90 days but not for more than one year. To ease the burden on employers by requiring them to submit fewer wage requests while still providing timely wage data, Wyoming established a 6-month validity period. The change from the 90-day validity period may be partially responsible for slower growth in wage requests.

### Prevailing Wage Determinations by Region

Four of the six regions (see page 2 for a map of the state's regions) saw increases in

(Text continued on page 11)

**Table 1: Wyoming Foreign Labor Certification Prevailing Wage Requests by Region, 2004 and 2005**

Region	2004		2005		Change	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Central-Southeast	49	18.0%	71	19.4%	22	44.9%
Northeast	20	12.2%	38	10.4%	18	90.0%
Northwest	13	4.4%	20	5.5%	7	53.8%
Southwest	136	44.4%	148	40.4%	12	8.8%
Casper MSA <sup>a</sup>	18	4.4%	32	8.7%	14	77.8%
Cheyenne MSA	103	16.6%	57	15.6%	-46	-44.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8.0%</b>

<sup>a</sup>Metropolitan Statistical Area.

**Table 2: Wyoming Foreign Labor Certification Prevailing Wage Requests by Major Occupational Group, 2004 and 2005**

2-Digit SOC <sup>a</sup> Code and Title	2004		2005		Change	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
11 Management	4	1.2%	10	2.7%	6	150.0%
13 Business & Financial Operations	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
15 Computer & Mathematical Science	101	29.8%	52	14.2%	-49	-48.5%
17 Architecture & Engineering	4	1.2%	16	4.4%	12	300.0%
19 Life, Physical, & Social Science	26	7.7%	24	6.6%	-2	-7.7%
21 Community & Social Services	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
23 Legal	0	0.0%	ND	ND	ND	ND
25 Education, Training, & Library	13	3.8%	19	5.2%	6	46.2%
27 Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	5	1.5%	ND	ND	ND	ND
29 Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	8	2.4%	23	6.3%	15	187.5%
31 Healthcare Support	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
33 Protective Services	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
35 Food Preparation & Serving Related	47	13.9%	58	15.8%	11	23.4%
37 Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	62	18.3%	70	19.1%	8	12.9%
39 Personal Care & Service	3	0.9%	11	3.0%	8	266.7%
41 Sales & Related	6	1.8%	ND	ND	ND	ND
43 Office & Administrative Support	10	2.9%	8	2.2%	-2	-20.0%
45 Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	ND	ND	10	2.7%	ND	ND
47 Construction & Extraction	25	7.4%	32	8.7%	7	28.0%
49 Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	4	1.2%	ND	ND	ND	ND
51 Production	8	2.4%	16	4.4%	8	100.0%
53 Transportation & Material Moving	7	2.1%	5	1.4%	-2	-28.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8.0%</b>

<sup>a</sup>Standard Occupational Classification.

ND - Not discloseable due to confidentiality of information.

determination requests of more than 40% (see Table 1, page 10). The largest percentage growth was in the Northeast region (90.0%), while the largest numeric increase was in the Central-Southeast region (up 22 requests). Although the percentage growth was smallest in the Southwest region (8.8%), the region accounted for 40.4% of all requests in the state. Teton County accounted for the majority (87.5%) of requests in the Southwest region and 35.5% of all requests in the state.

Only the Cheyenne Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced a decline in requests during 2005 (46 fewer requests or -44.7%). A drop in requests for Computer & Mathematical Science occupations drove most of the decrease. In contrast, the Cheyenne MSA had the highest growth from 2003 to 2004, again propelled by Computer & Mathematical Science occupations. The region had just 34 requests in 2003. In 2004, requests grew to 103, a 202.9% increase. Although growth slowed in 2005, the 57 requests for last year were 23 higher than in 2003.

### Prevailing Wage Determinations by Occupation

Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations saw the highest numeric growth in 2005 (see Table 2, page 10) from 8 requests in 2004 to 23 in 2005 (up 187.5%). This increase might be a sign that Wyoming healthcare providers are expanding their searches beyond U.S. borders to help fill positions and counter the nursing shortage (Glover, 2002). Other increases were in Architecture & Engineering (up by 12 requests) and Food Preparation & Serving Related (up 11). Declines were seen in Life, Physical, & Social Science; Office & Administrative Support; and Transportation & Material Moving.

Computer & Mathematical Science occupations had the largest drop in the number of requests from 2004 to 2005 (down 49 requests or 48.5%). In 2004, this occupational group saw the largest increase from 26 requests in 2003 to 101 in 2004 (up 288.5%). Most of the increase for these occupations from 2003 to 2004 occurred in the Cheyenne MSA. Similarly, the majority of the decline from 2004 to 2005 for Computer & Mathematical Science occupations occurred in the Cheyenne MSA. However, the 52 Computer & Mathematical Science requests statewide in 2005 were still double the number of requests in 2003.

### Summary

Even though the total number of wage determination requests has increased since 2003, the modest increase in the number of requests in 2005 is in contrast to the sharp growth seen from 2003 to 2004. At least part of the slowing growth is a result of the change in how long wage determinations are valid. Percentage growth was greatest in the Northeast region, while the Cheyenne MSA saw a decline in requests. Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupation requests grew the most of any occupational group. The occupational group with the largest decline was Computer & Mathematical Science occupations. As the shortage of nurses intensifies, we may see healthcare providers increasingly seek foreign workers.

### References

- Glover, W. (2002, August). *Nursing: Supply shortage or retention issue?* Casper, WY: Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning.
- U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2004), Labor

Certification for the Permanent Employment of Aliens in the United States; Implementation of New System, 20 C.F.R §§ 655-656.

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. (2005, May).

*Prevailing wage determination policy guidance, nonagricultural immigration programs.* Retrieved March 2, 2006, from [http://ows.doleta.gov/foreign/pdf/Policy\\_Nonag\\_Progs.pdf](http://ows.doleta.gov/foreign/pdf/Policy_Nonag_Progs.pdf).



## Wyoming Job Growth Continues in February 2006

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Wyoming employment continued to grow in February 2006, increasing by 8,700 jobs or 3.5% from February 2005. U.S. employment grew at a much slower pace (1.6%). Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly from 3.1% in January to 3.3% in February, but remained well below U.S. unemployment of 4.8%.

From January to February, Wyoming added 700 jobs or 0.3%. Seasonal job losses in Manufacturing (-200 jobs or -2.1%) and Retail Trade (-300 jobs or -1.0%) were more than offset by gains in Natural Resources & Mining (300 jobs or 1.2%) and Government (1,200 jobs or 1.8%). January's estimate of Government employment was unusually low, and February's figure represents a return to more normal levels.

From February 2005 to February 2006, Wyoming gained 8,700 jobs or 3.5%. Natural Resources & Mining (including oil & gas) posted the largest job gains (3,300 jobs or 15.5%) and Construction added 1,100 jobs or 6.4%. Almost all industry sectors added jobs from February 2005. Faster-than-average growth occurred in

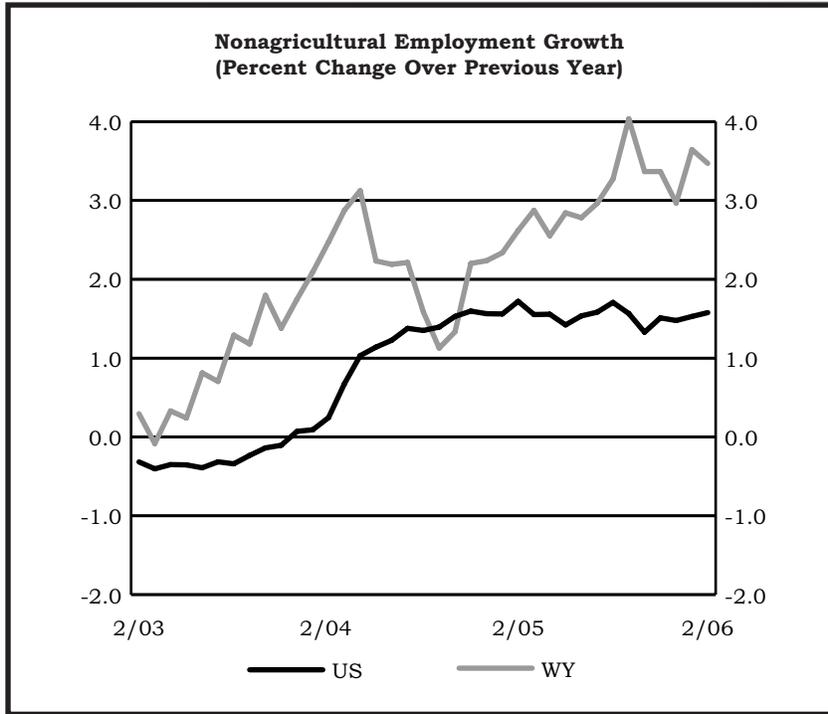
Wholesale Trade (400 jobs or 5.4%) and Transportation & Utilities (500 jobs or 4.1%), while more modest job gains were seen in Manufacturing (200 jobs or 2.2%), Professional & Business Services (300 jobs or 2.1%), Leisure & Hospitality (600 jobs or 2.1%), and Other Services (100 jobs or 1.0%). Employment fell slightly in Information (-100 jobs or 2.3%).

**Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly from 3.1% in January to 3.3% in February, but remained well below U.S. unemployment of 4.8%.**

Across Wyoming's 23 counties, most unemployment rates changed little from January to February. The largest increase in unemployment occurred in Goshen County (4.8% in January, 5.3% in February). Notable decreases occurred in Platte County (6.1% in January, 5.7% in February), Niobrara County (4.7% in January, 4.3% in February), and Weston County (4.7% in January, 4.4% in February). Sublette County continued to have the lowest unemployment rate (2.2% in February).

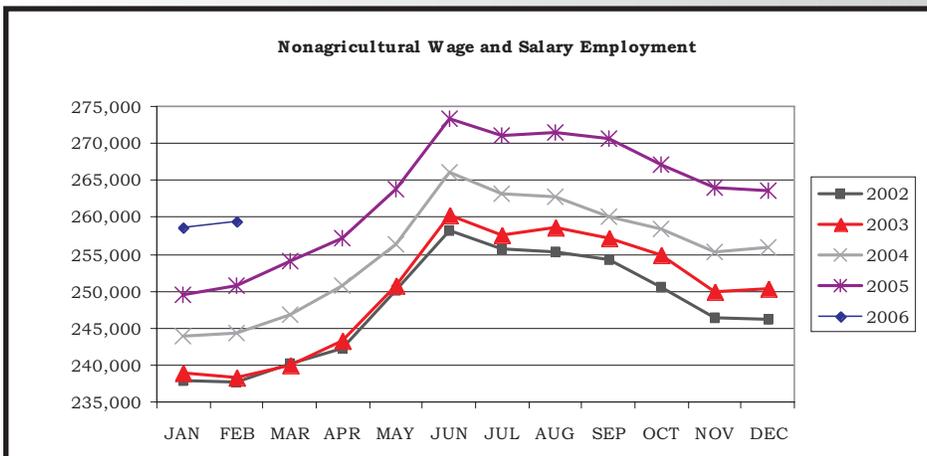
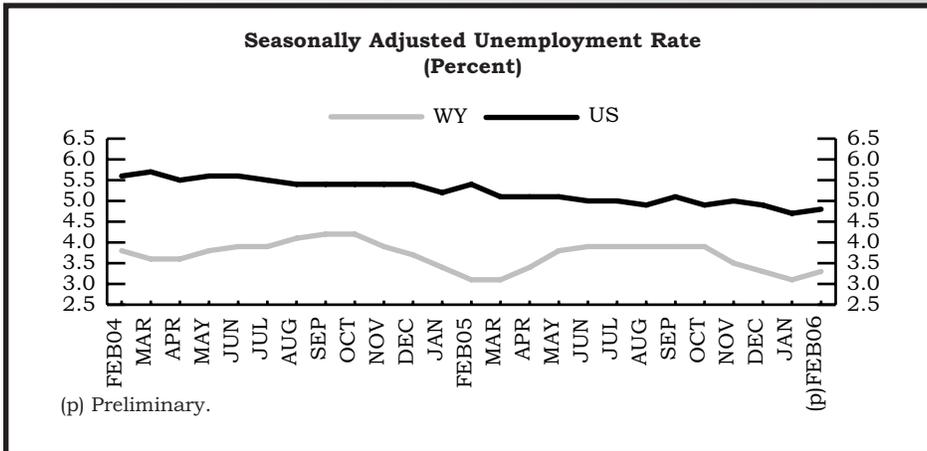
Note: Beginning this month, the Internet version of this release (found at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/news.htm>) will include tables showing employment by industry for Natrona County and Laramie County.





### State Unemployment Rates February 2006 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.4
Mississippi	8.4
Alaska	7.0
Michigan	6.6
South Carolina	6.4
Kentucky	6.3
Oregon	5.6
District of Columbia	5.3
Ohio	5.3
Tennessee	5.2
Indiana	5.1
Rhode Island	5.1
California	5.0
Georgia	5.0
Illinois	5.0
Massachusetts	5.0
Texas	5.0
Missouri	4.8
New Mexico	4.8
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Washington	4.8
Wisconsin	4.8
Arkansas	4.7
Kansas	4.7
New Jersey	4.7
New York	4.7
Maine	4.6
North Carolina	4.6
Connecticut	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.5
Arizona	4.4
Iowa	4.4
Minnesota	4.4
Colorado	4.3
Louisiana	4.3
West Virginia	4.1
Delaware	4.0
Nevada	3.8
Utah	3.8
Montana	3.7
Alabama	3.6
Oklahoma	3.6
Maryland	3.5
New Hampshire	3.5
South Dakota	3.5
Vermont	3.5
Idaho	3.4
Nebraska	3.4
North Dakota	3.4
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Florida	3.2
Virginia	3.0
Hawaii	2.5



# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

*Seasonal job losses in Manufacturing and Retail Trade were more than offset by gains in Natural Resources & Mining and Government.*

	Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment		Employment in Thousands					Percent Change Total Employment	
	Feb06(p)	Jan06(r)	Feb05(b)	Feb06	Feb06	Jan06	Feb05	Feb06(p)	Jan06(r)	Feb05(b)	Feb06	Feb06	Jan06	Feb05
<b>WYOMING STATEWIDE</b>														
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>259.4</b>	<b>258.7</b>	<b>250.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>									
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>193.4</b>	<b>185.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>									
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>									
Natural Resources & Mining	24.6	24.3	21.3	1.2	15.5									
Mining	24.5	24.2	21.2	1.2	15.6									
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.9	3.9	3.6	0.0	8.3									
Mining Except Oil & Gas	7.9	7.8	7.5	1.3	5.3									
Coal Mining	5.2	5.1	4.9	2.0	6.1									
Support Activities for Mining	12.7	12.5	10.1	1.6	25.7									
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	8.6	8.4	7.0	2.4	22.9									
Construction	18.3	18.4	17.2	-0.5	6.4									
Construction of Buildings	3.9	4.0	3.8	-2.5	2.6									
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	4.6	4.7	4.2	-2.1	9.5									
Specialty Trade Contractors	9.8	9.7	9.2	1.0	6.5									
Manufacturing	9.5	9.7	9.3	-2.1	2.2									
Durable Goods	5.1	5.1	5.0	0.0	2.0									
Non-Durable Goods	4.4	4.6	4.3	-4.3	2.3									
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>207.0</b>	<b>206.3</b>	<b>202.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>									
Trade, Trans., Warehouse, & Util.	49.4	49.7	48.2	-0.6	2.5									
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.7	7.4	1.3	5.4									
Merchant Whlsrsls., Durable	4.9	4.9	4.5	0.0	8.9									
Retail Trade	29.0	29.3	28.7	-1.0	1.0									
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	4.8									
Bldg. Material & Garden Sup.	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7									
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.5	4.6	2.2	0.0									
Grocery Stores	3.8	3.7	3.8	2.7	0.0									
Gasoline Stations	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.0	-2.6									
General Merchandise Stores	5.6	5.7	5.4	-1.8	3.7									
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6									
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	12.6	12.7	12.1	-0.8	4.1									
Utilities	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5									
Transportation & Warehousing	10.3	10.4	9.9	-1.0	4.0									
Truck Transportation	3.7	3.8	3.5	-2.6	5.7									
Information	4.2	4.3	4.3	-2.3	-2.3									
Financial Activities	10.6	10.6	10.4	0.0	1.9									
Finance & Insurance	6.8	6.8	6.7	0.0	1.5									
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	2.7									
Professional & Business Services	14.9	14.9	14.6	0.0	2.1									
Prof., Scientific & Tech. Services	8.1	8.0	8.1	1.3	0.0									
Architect., Engineering & Rel.	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5									
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterpr. Admin., Support & Waste Svcs.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0									
Mgmt., Support & Waste Svcs.	6.0	6.1	5.7	-1.6	5.3									
Educational & Health Services	22.2	22.2	21.7	0.0	2.3									
Educational	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8									
Health Care & Social Assistance	20.0	20.0	19.6	0.0	2.0									
Ambulatory Health Care	7.4	7.5	7.3	-1.3	1.4									
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.2	3.0	-3.1	3.3									
Hospitals	2.8	2.9	2.8	-3.4	0.0									
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.4	4.3	2.3	4.7									
Social Assistance	5.3	5.2	5.2	1.9	1.9									
Leisure & Hospitality	29.5	29.6	28.9	-0.3	2.1									
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8									
Accommodation & Food Services	27.3	27.4	26.8	-0.4	1.9									
Accommodation	9.8	9.8	9.6	0.0	2.1									
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	17.5	17.6	17.2	-0.6	1.7									
Other Services	9.7	9.7	9.6	0.0	1.0									
Repair & Maintenance	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.3									
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>									
Federal Government	6.9	6.9	7.0	0.0	-1.4									
State Government	15.6	15.5	15.4	0.6	1.3									
State Govt. Education	6.5	6.5	6.3	0.0	3.2									
Local Government	44.0	42.9	42.8	2.6	2.8									
Local Govt. Education	23.0	22.3	22.6	3.1	1.8									
Hospitals	6.1	6.1	5.8	0.0	5.2									
<b>LARAMIE COUNTY</b>														
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>									
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>									
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>									
Nat. Res., Mining, & Construction	2.6	2.8	2.5	-7.1	4.0									
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7									
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>									
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.7	8.8	8.5	-1.1	2.4									
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3									
Retail Trade	5.4	5.5	5.3	-1.8	1.9									
Trans, Warehouse, & Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0									
Information	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0									
Financial Activities	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0									
Professional & Business Services	3.2	3.0	3.0	6.7	6.7									
Educational & Health Services	3.4	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.0									
Leisure & Hospitality	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-2.4									
Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9									
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>									
Federal Government	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-3.8									
State Government	3.9	3.8	3.9	2.6	0.0									
Local Government	6.6	6.3	6.3	4.8	4.8									
Local Education	3.4	3.2	3.3	6.2	3.0									
<b>NATRONA COUNTY</b>														
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>									
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>									
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>									
Natural Resources & Mining	3.7	3.7	3.3	0.0	12.1									
Construction	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.5	-4.5									
Manufacturing	1.8	1.8	1.7	0.0	5.9									
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>									
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.4	8.5	8.1	-1.2	3.7									
Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7									
Retail Trade	4.8	4.9	4.7	-2.0	2.1									
Transport., Warehouse, & Util.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0									
Information	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0									
Financial Activities	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0									
Professional & Business Services	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8									
Educational & Health Services	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0									
Leisure & Hospitality	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.0	2.9									
Other Services	1.7	1.6	1.7	6.2	0.0									
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>									
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0									
State Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0									
Local Government	4.4	4.4	4.3	0.0	2.3									
Local Education	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.4									

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, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

# Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in		Percent Change		
	Thousands		Total Employment		
	Feb06(p)	Jan06(r)	Feb05(b)	Feb06	Feb06
<b>CAMPBELL COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6.9	6.9	6.4	0.0	7.8
Construction	2.3	2.3	1.9	0.0	21.1
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.4	4.5	4.1	-2.2	7.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.0	20.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.0	6.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.7	0.8	0.7	-12.5	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.2
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>SWEETWATER COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	5.0	5.0	4.6	0.0	8.7
Construction	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	-6.7
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	4.7	4.7	4.6	0.0	2.2
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.0	14.3
Professional & Bus. Services	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.1	2.2	2.2	-4.5	-4.5
Other Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TETON COUNTY</b>					
<b>TOTAL NONAG. WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
<b>SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	-33.3
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Professional & Bus. Services	1.4	1.5	1.3	-6.7	7.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Leisure & Hospitality	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.0	1.8
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## State Unemployment Rates February 2006 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	9.8
Mississippi	8.6
Alaska	8.2
Kentucky	7.2
Michigan	7.2
South Carolina	6.9
Oregon	6.5
Ohio	6.1
Rhode Island	6.0
Indiana	5.8
Wisconsin	5.7
Maine	5.6
Washington	5.6
District of Columbia	5.5
Illinois	5.5
Massachusetts	5.5
Tennessee	5.5
Arkansas	5.4
California	5.4
Missouri	5.4
Pennsylvania	5.3
West Virginia	5.3
New Jersey	5.2
New York	5.2
Texas	5.2
Georgia	5.1
Iowa	5.1
North Carolina	5.1
<b>United States</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Connecticut	5.0
Kansas	5.0
New Mexico	5.0
Minnesota	4.9
Colorado	4.6
Montana	4.6
Arizona	4.4
Delaware	4.4
Idaho	4.3
Louisiana	4.2
North Dakota	4.2
Utah	4.2
Vermont	4.2
Oklahoma	4.1
<b>Wyoming</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Alabama	4.0
Nevada	4.0
New Hampshire	4.0
South Dakota	4.0
Maryland	3.8
Nebraska	3.8
Virginia	3.3
Florida	3.1
Hawaii	2.3

## Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

Wyoming's labor force (the sum of employed and unemployed individuals) increased by 3.3% from February 2005 to February 2006.

	Febr	Jan	Febr	Percent Change	
	2006	2006	2005	Month	Year
	(p)	(r)	(b)		
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force	287,655	282,579	278,485	1.8	3.3
Unemployed	11,869	11,912	11,299	-0.4	5.0
Employed	275,786	270,667	267,186	1.9	3.2
Wyoming Unemp. Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	4.1%/3.3%	4.2%/3.1%	4.1%/3.1%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seasonally Adjusted	5.1%/4.8%	5.1%/4.7%	5.8%/5.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,437,000	7,428,000	7,667,000	0.1	-3.0
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.3%	5.5%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	386,000	396,000	485,000	-2.5	-20.4
U.S. Part-Time for Economic Reasons	4,403,000	4,597,000	4,487,000	-4.2	-1.9
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,038.75	\$1,099.73	\$1,075.38	-5.5	-3.4
Average Weekly Hours	45.4	46.5	45.8	-2.4	-0.9
U.S. Mining Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$891.50	\$915.22	\$857.28	-2.6	4.0
Average Weekly Hours	45.3	46.2	45.6	-1.9	-0.7
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$667.07	\$697.60	\$723.77	-4.4	-7.8
Average Weekly Hours	41.0	42.1	41.1	-2.6	-0.2
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$680.10	\$686.30	\$664.18	-0.9	2.4
Average Weekly Hours	40.7	40.9	40.4	-0.5	0.7
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	13,673	16,709	17,535	-18.2	-22.0
Benefits Paid	\$3,381,682	\$4,116,331	\$4,187,267	-17.8	-19.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$247.33	\$246.35	\$238.79	0.4	3.6
State Insured Covered Jobs	239,668	239,083	231,988	0.2	3.3
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Items					
Food & Beverages	198.7	198.3	191.8	0.2	3.6
Housing	194.4	194.5	189.3	-0.1	2.7
Apparel	200.5	200.0	192.7	0.3	4.0
Transportation	116.6	114.9	118.7	1.5	-1.8
Medical Care	175.8	175.9	166.1	-0.1	5.8
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	332.1	329.5	319.3	0.8	4.0
Education & Comm. (Dec. 1997=100)	110.2	109.9	109.0	0.3	1.1
Other Goods & Services	115.7	115.7	112.8	0.0	2.6
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100) - All Commodities	319.1	318.2	310.8	0.3	2.7
	161.9	164.6	151.6	-1.6	6.8
Wyoming Building Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	204	167	168	22.2	21.4
Valuation	\$33,703,000	\$28,363,000	\$23,585,000	18.8	42.9
Single Family Homes	160	137	140	16.8	14.3
Valuation	\$30,502,000	\$25,914,000	\$22,087,000	17.7	38.1
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for WY	96	88	68	9.1	41.2

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

# Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Roy Azar, Economist

*Sublette County continued to have the lowest unemployment rate (2.2% in February).*

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Feb 2006 (p)	Jan 2006 (p)	Feb 2005 (b)									
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>44,624</b>	<b>43,981</b>	<b>43,214</b>	<b>42,278</b>	<b>41,640</b>	<b>40,975</b>	<b>2,346</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Big Horn	5,497	5,488	5,138	5,189	5,186	4,835	308	302	303	5.6	5.5	5.9
Fremont	18,362	18,022	17,861	17,348	17,014	16,900	1,014	1,008	961	5.5	5.6	5.4
Hot Springs	2,327	2,281	2,334	2,208	2,164	2,233	119	117	101	5.1	5.1	4.3
Park	14,032	13,753	13,628	13,326	13,044	12,973	706	709	655	5.0	5.2	4.8
Washakie	4,406	4,437	4,253	4,207	4,232	4,034	199	205	219	4.5	4.6	5.1
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>50,655</b>	<b>49,754</b>	<b>48,285</b>	<b>48,889</b>	<b>47,955</b>	<b>46,528</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Campbell	24,678	24,316	23,117	23,981	23,613	22,454	697	703	663	2.8	2.9	2.9
Crook	3,282	3,228	3,149	3,163	3,105	3,019	119	123	130	3.6	3.8	4.1
Johnson	3,824	3,746	3,623	3,681	3,601	3,459	143	145	164	3.7	3.9	4.5
Sheridan	15,557	15,216	15,150	14,896	14,540	14,490	661	676	660	4.2	4.4	4.4
Weston	3,314	3,248	3,246	3,168	3,096	3,106	146	152	140	4.4	4.7	4.3
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>61,328</b>	<b>60,323</b>	<b>58,622</b>	<b>59,129</b>	<b>58,113</b>	<b>56,559</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Lincoln	7,889	7,756	7,754	7,492	7,363	7,391	397	393	363	5.0	5.1	4.7
Sublette	5,479	5,342	4,589	5,361	5,233	4,490	118	109	99	2.2	2.0	2.2
Sweetwater	23,239	22,773	22,489	22,441	21,945	21,741	798	828	748	3.4	3.6	3.3
Teton	13,704	13,562	13,230	13,280	13,144	12,816	424	418	414	3.1	3.1	3.1
Uinta	11,017	10,890	10,560	10,555	10,428	10,121	462	462	439	4.2	4.2	4.2
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>75,173</b>	<b>73,314</b>	<b>74,053</b>	<b>71,837</b>	<b>69,980</b>	<b>70,917</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>3,136</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Albany	20,582	19,940	20,569	19,901	19,235	19,942	681	705	627	3.3	3.5	3.0
Goshen	5,933	5,778	5,757	5,617	5,500	5,468	316	278	289	5.3	4.8	5.0
Laramie	43,456	42,483	42,532	41,396	40,427	40,591	2,060	2,056	1,941	4.7	4.8	4.6
Niobrara	1,134	1,110	1,122	1,085	1,058	1,072	49	52	50	4.3	4.7	4.5
Platte	4,068	4,003	4,073	3,838	3,760	3,844	230	243	229	5.7	6.1	5.6
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>55,877</b>	<b>55,206</b>	<b>54,313</b>	<b>53,653</b>	<b>52,979</b>	<b>52,209</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Carbon	7,700	7,590	7,605	7,327	7,218	7,254	373	372	351	4.8	4.9	4.6
Converse	7,054	6,925	6,669	6,743	6,626	6,391	311	299	278	4.4	4.3	4.2
Natrona	41,123	40,691	40,039	39,583	39,135	38,564	1,540	1,556	1,475	3.7	3.8	3.7
<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>287,655</b>	<b>282,579</b>	<b>278,485</b>	<b>275,786</b>	<b>270,667</b>	<b>267,186</b>	<b>11,869</b>	<b>11,912</b>	<b>11,299</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted .....										3.3	3.1	3.1
U.S. ....										5.1	5.1	5.8
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										4.8	4.7	5.4

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/06. Run Date 03/06.

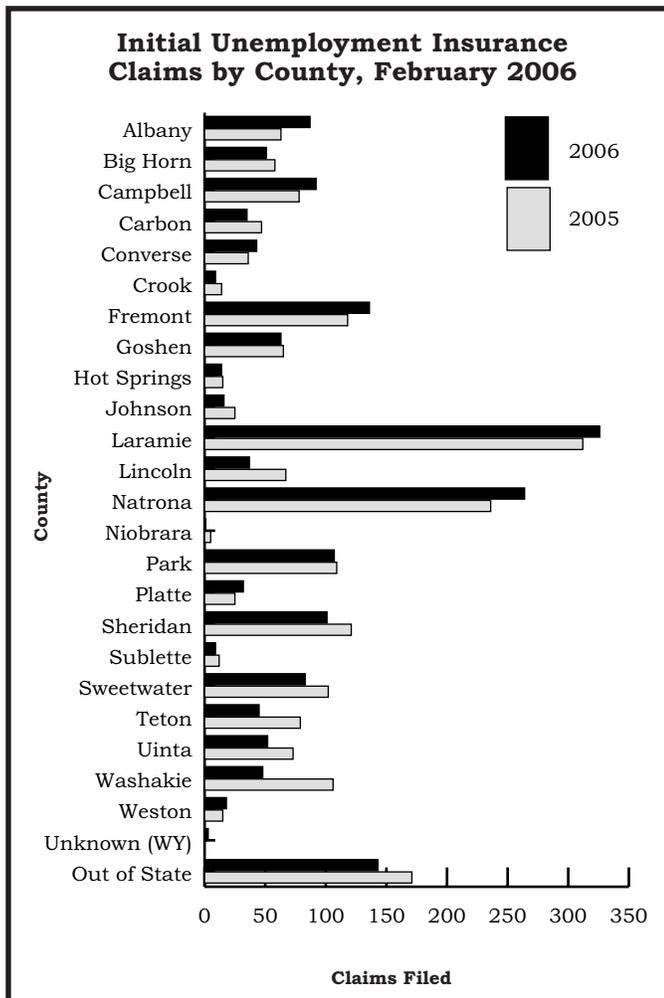
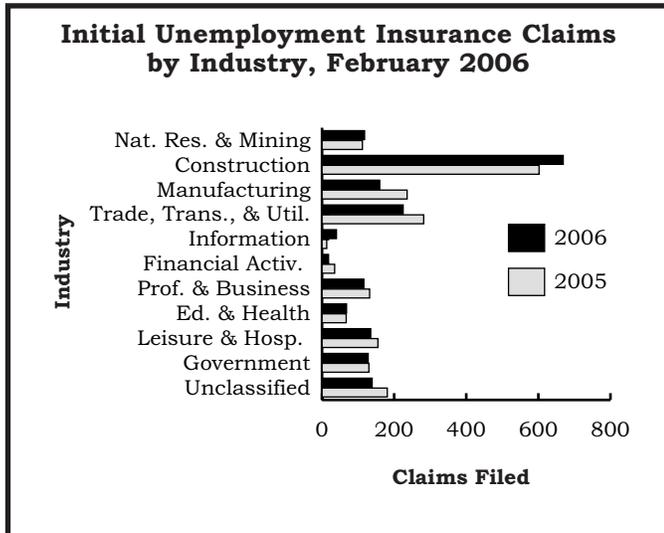
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

(p) Preliminary. (b) Benchmarked.

## Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

February initial claims were down 24.7% over the month and 6.9% over the year.  
February's total claims count was the third lowest total for the month in the last 9 years.



WYOMING STATEWIDE	Claims Filed		Percent Change		
	Feb06	Jan06	Feb06	Feb05	
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS FILED</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>-24.7</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	947	999	950	-5.2	-0.3
Natural Resources and Mining	118	128	112	-7.8	5.4
Mining	105	113	103	-7.1	1.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	13	14	6	-7.1	116.7
Construction	669	778	602	-14.0	11.1
Manufacturing	160	93	236	72.0	-32.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	634	1,067	722	-40.6	-12.2
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	225	425	282	-47.1	-20.2
Wholesale Trade	24	51	34	-52.9	-29.4
Retail Trade	128	286	175	-55.2	-26.9
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	73	88	73	-17.0	0.0
Information	40	29	13	37.9	207.7
Financial Activities	18	45	35	-60.0	-48.6
Professional & Business Serv.	116	199	132	-41.7	-12.1
Educational & Health Services	68	69	67	-1.4	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	135	255	155	-47.1	-12.9
Other Services	32	45	38	-28.9	-15.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	128	202	130	-36.6	-1.5
Federal Government	57	102	49	-44.1	16.3
State Government	21	22	15	-4.5	40.0
Local Government	50	78	66	-35.9	-24.2
Local Education	11	17	16	-35.3	-31.3
UNCLASSIFIED	107	144	149	-25.7	-28.2

### LARAMIE COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	324	431	310	-24.8	4.5
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	165	182	154	-9.3	7.1
Construction	136	157	134	-13.4	1.5
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	127	201	122	-36.8	4.1
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	48	105	55	-54.3	-12.7
Financial Activities	5	10	4	-50.0	25.0
Professional & Business Serv.	30	35	26	-14.3	15.4
Educational & Health Services	19	14	6	35.7	216.7
Leisure & Hospitality	9	21	23	-57.1	-60.9
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	19	22	21	-13.6	-9.5
UNCLASSIFIED	13	26	13	-50.0	0.0

### NATRONA COUNTY

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	262	309	232	-15.2	12.9
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	166	142	102	16.9	62.7
Construction	142	118	82	20.3	73.2
TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING	81	151	115	-46.4	-29.6
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	23	63	44	-63.5	-47.7
Financial Activities	4	8	8	-50.0	-50.0
Professional & Business Serv.	21	33	16	-36.4	31.3
Educational & Health Services	15	15	18	0.0	-16.7
Leisure & Hospitality	12	20	16	-40.0	-25.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	5	8	10	-37.5	-50.0
UNCLASSIFIED	10	8	5	25.0	100.0

# Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Research Analyst

Continued claims declined by 4.9% over the month and 21.9% over the year. The February 2006 total was the lowest amount for the month in the previous 9 years.

WYOMING STATEWIDE	Percent Change				
	Weeks Claimed		Weeks Claimed		
	Feb06	Jan06	Feb05	Feb06	
<b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>	<b>16,851</b>	<b>17,716</b>	<b>21,570</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-21.9</b>
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>4,780</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>6,199</b>	<b>-10.9</b>	<b>-22.9</b>
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>6,325</b>	<b>7,077</b>	<b>8,575</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>-26.2</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	813	924	1,104	-12.0	-26.4
Mining	678	776	814	-12.6	-16.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	80	79	90	1.3	-11.1
Construction	4,816	5,387	6,444	-10.6	-25.3
Manufacturing	696	766	1,027	-9.1	-32.2
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>7,443</b>	<b>7,317</b>	<b>9,093</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>-18.1</b>
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	2,281	1,941	2,593	17.5	-12.0
Wholesale Trade	331	291	398	13.7	-16.8
Retail Trade	1,470	1,222	1,478	20.3	-0.5
Trans., Storage, & Utilities	480	428	717	12.1	-33.1
Information	182	135	392	34.8	-53.6
Financial Activities	304	299	434	1.7	-30.0
Professional & Business Serv.	1,634	1,671	2,036	-2.2	-19.7
Educational & Health Serv.	618	685	740	-9.8	-16.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,043	2,229	2,492	-8.3	-18.0
Other Services	381	357	406	6.7	-6.2
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>-13.4</b>
Federal Government	1,129	1,211	1,346	-6.8	-16.1
State Government	225	255	286	-11.8	-21.3
Local Government	764	776	813	-1.5	-6.0
Local Education	132	145	126	-9.0	4.8
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>-33.8</b>

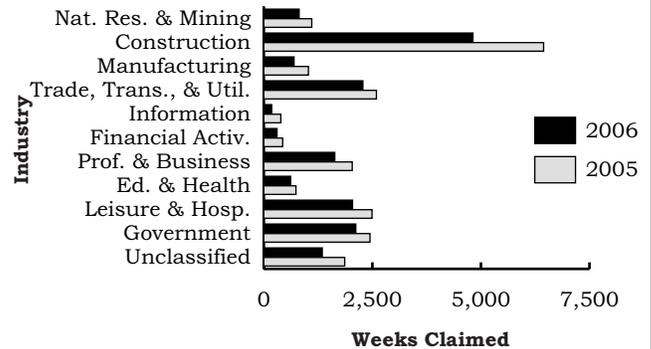
## LARAMIE COUNTY

<b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>-13.7</b>
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-14.6</b>
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>-7.7</b>	<b>-13.9</b>
Construction	992	1,005	1,180	-1.3	-15.9
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>-13.7</b>
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	550	357	483	54.1	13.9
Financial Activities	71	59	111	20.3	-36.0
Professional & Business Serv.	298	306	400	-2.6	-25.5
Educational & Health Services	146	147	130	-0.7	12.3
Leisure & Hospitality	174	194	122	-10.3	42.6
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-28.1</b>
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>26.9</b>

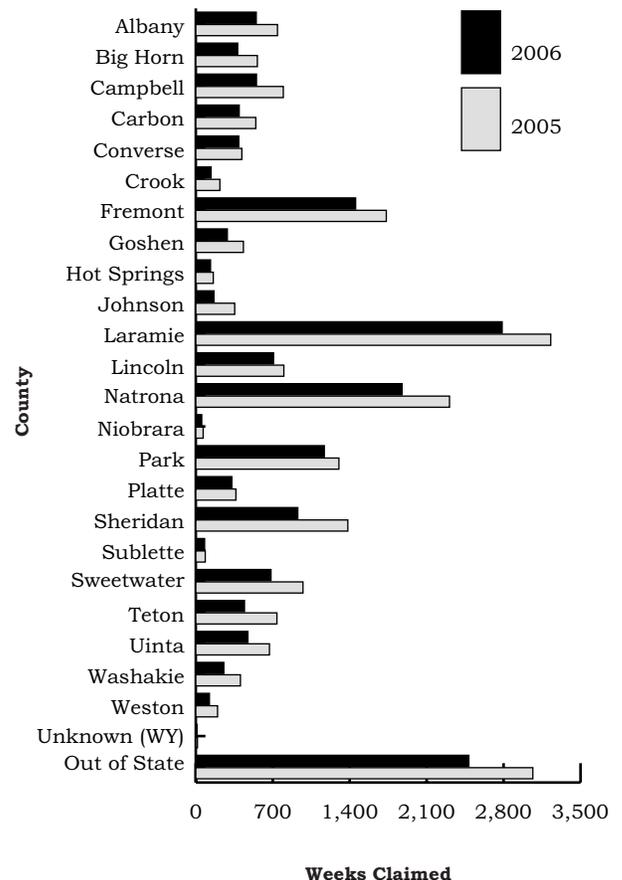
## NATRONA COUNTY

<b>TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>-18.7</b>
<b>TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-18.4</b>	<b>-18.3</b>
<b>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>-21.8</b>	<b>-19.2</b>
Construction	590	773	758	-23.7	-22.2
<b>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-17.3</b>
Trade, Trans., Storage, & Util.	352	298	398	18.1	-11.6
Financial Activities	65	64	98	1.6	-33.7
Professional & Business Serv.	262	292	315	-10.3	-16.8
Educational & Health Services	60	63	130	-4.8	-53.8
Leisure & Hospitality	133	152	154	-12.5	-13.6
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-8.2</b>
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-11.9</b>	<b>-49.3</b>

**Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, February 2006**



**Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, February 2006**



**Wyoming Department of Employment  
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Casper, WY 82602**

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

**Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. G-12  
Cheyenne, WY**