

TRENDS

Job Attainment and Wages of Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation Participants

by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

This article examines the success rate of participants who have completed the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services' Vocational Rehabilitation program. Clients with successful closures had a higher rate of job attainment one year after closure date (73%) than those with unsuccessful closures (43%).

The purpose of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services' Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division is to help "people with disabilities establish and reach vocational goals that help them become productive working citizens." (Wyoming Department of Workforce Services). In this article, Research & Planning (R&P) examines the outcome over time on Wyoming VR participants' employability and earnings based on closure status (whether successful or unsuccessful; see Definitions, page 4) and months of participation. Note: This study does not quantify the impacts of the VR program, such as the employment outcomes of people with or without the VR

program's existence. As VR programs exist in all states, there is no way to identify a group of people with similar disabling conditions who received no VR services.

This study combines two main sources of information: VR program data and Wyoming Department of Employment administrative databases, which include wage records and demographic information (see related article, page 3).

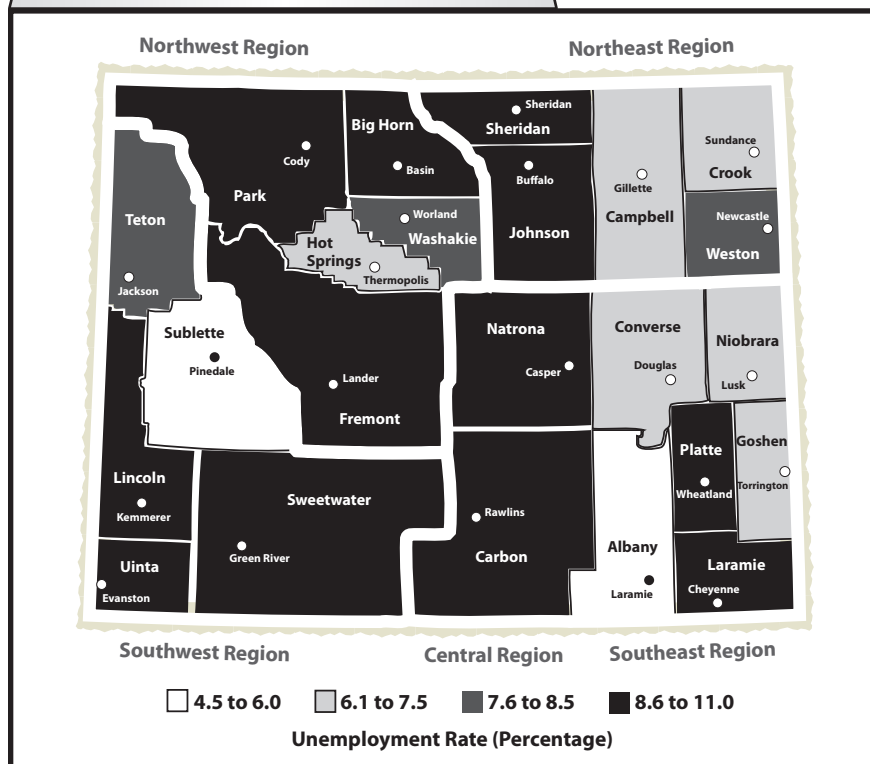
This study found the rate of job attainment was substantially higher for clients with successful closures (72.6%

(Text continued on page 3)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ask an Economist: What are smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates?. ... page 15
- Wyoming's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.6% in January. Over the year, employment decreased by 14,400 jobs. ... page 16
- The number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming increased from 16,013 in January 2009 to 25,017 in January 2010. ... page 20

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, January 2010 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Wyoming Labor Force Trends

A monthly publication of the
Wyoming Department
of Employment,
Gary W. Child, Director

Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602-2760
doeerd_r&p_web@state.wy.us
307-473-3807

Tom Gallagher, Manager

**Tony Glover, Workforce
Information Supervisor**

**Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor
Statistics Programs Supervisor**

Phil Ellsworth, Editor

Michael Moore, Associate Editor

**Editorial Committee: David Bullard,
Valerie A. Davis, Phil Ellsworth,
and Michael Moore**

Contributors to *Wyoming Labor
Force Trends* this month: David
Bullard, Carola Cowan, Margaret
Hiatt, Douglas W. Leonard, and
Patrick Manning.

Subscriptions, additional copies, and
back issues available free of charge.

© Copyright 2010 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.

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.

Mission statement available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/mission.pdf>.

ISSN 0512-4409

IN THIS ISSUE

Job Attainment and Wages of Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation Participants	1
What Are Wage Records?	3
Ask an Economist: What Are Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted Estimates?	15
Wyoming Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.6% in January.	16
State Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)	17
Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment.	18
Economic Indicators	20
Wyoming County Unemployment Rates	21
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims	22
Wyoming Normalized Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims	23

Now online: Updated UI tables regarding Tax Revenue, Benefits Paid, the Trust Fund Balance, and Benefits Paid by County for 2009 are now available on the Web at: <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/UI/default.htm>

(Text continued from page 1)

employment one year after closure date) compared to clients with unsuccessful closures (43.2%). However, the rate of successful closures was relatively low (35.8%). Successful completion often leads to lower levels of costs for publicly provided supportive services such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Previous longitudinal studies on the efficacy of the VR program have been conducted, including a national survey conducted by Hayward & Schmidt-Davis for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The study began in January 1995 and was completed in January 2000. The survey consisted of 8,500 VR participants tracked over three years. Using a cohort design, researchers randomly selected 25% of the sample from the population of people when they applied to VR, 50% of

Data from the **Vocational Rehabilitation Program** employed in this study included social security number, type of closure, reason for closure, closure date, eligibility date, age, and major disabling condition.

Wage Records Data employed included social security number, wage per quarter, the year and quarter the wages were earned, and employer tax ID number.

The VR data and wage records data were merged using the participants' social security number.

What Are Wage Records?

Wage records are an administrative database used to calculate UI benefits for employees who have been laid off through no fault of their own. By law, each employer who has covered employees must submit tax reports to the state showing each employee's wage. The required information on this tax report includes social security number (SSN) for each covered employee, year, quarter, and wages earned in the quarter.¹ The Wage

Records Database contains approximately 90% of Wyoming wage earners. Wage records from surrounding states are available, but the amount of historic data is limited. The Wage Records Database also has limitations. Some employment groups are excluded, including most production agricultural workers, federal employees, railroad workers, and the self-employed. For an introduction to wage record applications see Glover (2003). R&P's Wage Records Research web page contains many examples of such applications (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/wagerecords.htm>).

¹ Gosar, W. M. (1995). Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Wage Record summary statistics: A new way to look at Wyoming. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 32(5). From <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0595/0595a2.htm>

the sample from the population of people who were already receiving services, and 25% of the sample from the population who were exiting or had exited from VR services (Hayward and Schmidt-Davis). The study used an initial interview/survey and a three-year follow-up survey. “The study differs from prior studies of the VR program in that it offered the opportunity to collect extensive data on individuals, services, and outcomes, expanding previous analytical bases and allowing a more thorough assessment of VR results than had previously been possible.” (Hayward and Schmidt-Davis, ES-2). “At the end of the VR longitudinal study’s data collection period, 17% of the study population was continuing to receive VR services three years after they entered the study, 45% had achieved an employment outcome, and 21% had exited VR after services without an employment outcome.” The study found that “persons who receive VR services were likely to achieve a competitive employment outcome if:

- they had higher gross motor function;
- they had higher cognitive function;
- they were working at application for VR services;
- they had higher earnings at their most recent job prior to VR application;
- they had greater knowledge of different jobs;
- they had greater knowledge of the nonmonetary benefits of jobs.” (Hayward and Schmidt-Davis, ES-6).

While the RSA study provides thorough information regarding the factors influencing employability of VR participants, it is based on a national sample of the VR participants and is subject to response bias. Consequently, it is not clear if or to what extent national study findings are applicable at the state and local level. This R&P study captured employment and wage outcomes from

Definitions

Closure:

The date at which the VR program closed a participant’s file. This can happen for many reasons.

Successful closure:

For the purposes of this study, a successful closure is termed *closed rehabilitated* and all other closure types are considered unsuccessful.

Unsuccessful closure types include:

Closed, not accepted for VR services, from the applicant status.

Closed, not accepted for VR services, from extended evaluation.

Closed, not rehabilitated, after individualized written rehabilitation program initiated.

Closed, not rehabilitated, before individualized written rehabilitation program initiated.

Closed from the pre-service listing.

administrative databases encompassing the vast majority of participants and avoided some of the data collection problems and costs associated with survey collection methods. This analysis offers an example of a way relevant state and local research may be conducted at a much lower cost than through a survey-based approach.

A U.S. Government Accountability Office report (GAO, 2005) examined the performance of VR participants in fiscal year 2003. The study found that nationally, one-third of VR participants who exited a program in FY 2003 obtained employment, and this rate varied significantly among state VR agencies. For Wyoming, 38.3% of participants “exited with employment, after services under an employment plan.” (GAO, p. 47). This figure differs from the results of the R&P research (43.2%) in that

the GAO study uses VR program data and examines employment at closure, while the R&P research relies on wage records and examines the first four quarters after closure.

The GAO initiated another study to identify ways to improve the VR program's ability to benefit the subset of VR clients who were Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiaries (GAO, 2007). The analysis group consisted of SSA beneficiaries who completed a VR program between 2001 and 2003. The GAO (2007, p. 3) analyzed outcomes by state agency using three earnings outcomes:

1. *the percentage of beneficiaries with earnings during the year after VR,*
2. *the average beneficiary's annual earnings level during the year after VR, and*
3. *the percentage of beneficiaries that left the disability rolls by the close of 2005.*

Results for each state agency were not shown individually. The results indicated, "The proportion of beneficiaries with earnings during the year after their completion of the VR program ranged from as little as 0% in one state agency to as high as 75% in another. Similarly, average annual earnings levels among those SSA beneficiaries with earnings varied across state agencies from \$1,500 to \$17,000 in the year following VR. Additionally, the proportion of SSA beneficiaries who left the disability rolls varied greatly among agencies, with departure rates ranging anywhere from 0 to 20%." A significant result was that "state unemployment rates and state per capita income levels accounted for a substantial proportion – as much as one-third – of the differences between state agencies' VR outcomes for SSA beneficiaries." (GAO, 2007. p.4).

Another longitudinal study using wage records to assess the efficacy of the VR

program was conducted in Ohio in 2004 (Gordon, Schaff, & Shaw). The study found that participants with closures within the 1993-1999 time periods, the competitive employment rate (not employed in sheltered workshops or subsidized businesses, etc.) ranged from 74 to 81% after one year, and 68 to 70% after three years. (Although calculated slightly differently, these findings were similar to the R&P study's findings of 73% employment for participants with successful closure one year after the closure date). The authors stated, "The practical, general lesson to be learned from this project for workforce development is that wage records can be used to assess program outcomes. Wage records offer a viable alternative to traditional follow-up studies that often prove to be difficult, limited in coverage, and costly. The use of wage records affords a way to do such work efficiently and effectively – that is, to 'work smarter' in developing outcome measures that can serve to guide future investments in the workforce." (Gordon et al., p. 41).

Given the nature of the data, the research strategy would require measuring outcomes that would not be present had the program not existed. A recent study (Leonard, 2009) conducted by R&P on a similar topic represents an example of this research strategy. The analysis focused on occupational injuries (Workers' Compensation claimants), and the treatment thereof, and used the same administrative and wage records databases used in this study. Ideally, a matched control group of non-participants would be created using methods similar to Leonard's. However, due to the lack of access to detailed medical information on the population in general, this would prove problematic for this study. Additionally, the VR participants differ from the worker compensation claimants in Leonard's study as all employed persons

are exposed to risks associated with the workplace and have the potential to become a workers' compensation claimant. Most of the population is not likely to have a medical condition severe enough to be eligible for VR programs, at least not within a specific category of disability. A frequency of the major disabling conditions for the participants in this study is shown in Table 1. For 11.5% of the participants, the major condition is not recorded. Additionally, for many of the 15 most frequently occurring disability codes, the descriptions are rather vague. Along with the lack of medical information on the general

population, this prevents the establishment of a non-participant control group.

Methodology

This study compares the long-term effects of VR training on participants with a successful closure to those with an unsuccessful closure as defined by the program. To examine longitudinal outcomes, VR participants completing the program between January 1994 and December 1996 composed the analysis group. In the case of

Table 1: Fifteen Most Frequent Disabling Conditions of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Participants in Wyoming With Dates of Closure in 1994-96

Category	Description	Count	Percent ^a
Other and ill-defined impairments (including trunk, back and spine)	All Other Accidents, injuries and Poisonings	641	15.4%
	Not coded	476	11.5%
Impairment involving one or both upper limbs (including hands, fingers and thumbs)	All Other Accidents, injuries and Poisonings	285	6.9%
Impairment involving one or both lower limbs (including feet and toes)	All Other Accidents, injuries and Poisonings	259	6.2%
Mental and emotional conditions	Mental and emotional disorders, not elsewhere classified	250	6.0%
Mental and emotional conditions	Neurotic disorders	187	4.5%
Mental and emotional conditions	Psychotic disorders	166	4.0%
Other specified disorders of the nervous system	Specific developmental disorders (learning disabilities)	160	3.9%
Mental and emotional conditions	Alcohol abuse or dependence	149	3.6%
Mental and emotional conditions	Mental retardation, mild	138	3.3%
Other and ill-defined impairments (including trunk, back, and spine)	Accidents and injuries involving the spinal cord	121	2.9%
Mental and emotional conditions	Mental retardation, moderate	52	1.3%
Impairment involving one or both lower limbs (including feet and toes)	Accidents and injuries involving the spinal cord	44	1.1%
Other disabling diseases and conditions not elsewhere classified	All other disabling and conditions	41	1.0%
Traumatic brain injury	Other mental and emotional disorders	40	1.0%

^aPercentage of the 4,149 VR Participants.

Category and description of disabling conditions are found in U.S. Department of Education, 2005, p. 12-19.

Note: For a more recent listing of the causes of disability of VR participants please see Table 14 of *Wyoming Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs 2009* (Western Management Services, 2010).

individuals with multiple closures, only the latest closure was examined. Participants with closure statuses of death, no disabling condition, or no impediment to employment were excluded from the analysis (253 people). Given these parameters, the data set contained 4,149 participants.

The data were categorized for analysis in two ways:

1. Participants were categorized by closure status.

A closure type of closed rehabilitated was categorized as a success, with all other closure types categorized as unsuccessful.

2. Participants were categorized by the length of time they received VR services. This was termed months of participation and was defined as the number of months between the application date and the closure date. Ideally, a start date of participation would be used rather than date of application, but this date was not captured in the VR program dataset. The reason for this method of categorization is that participants may leave the program for a variety of reasons. For example, a participant may have participated in the program long enough to have obtained the requisite skills for employability, then left the state for employment without notifying the VR program, and therefore would have likely been categorized as an unsuccessful closure. Four intervals of months of participation were analyzed: 0 to 3 months, 4 to 12 months, 13 to 24 months, and 24 or more months.

Within these two categories, the success rate of participants was calculated. Quarterly wage records were then used to

calculate the number of participants who did and did not earn wages in Wyoming after their closure date, total wages, total quarters worked, total transactions, the average quarterly wage per participant, and the average number of employers per participant. This was examined at three intervals all starting the quarter following

closure: 1, 5, and 10 years after closure. For the closure status category, the results were further partitioned by gender and age group. Wage data

were inflation-adjusted using the Consumer Price Index (BLS, 2009). The base year for real wages was 2007.

Lastly, the economic conditions in Wyoming from 1994 through 2009 were briefly discussed to provide context regarding VR participants' employment outlook. While the focus of this article is the long-term impact of the VR program, the success rate of 2007-08 participants was examined to see if this rate changed substantially.

Results

Closure Type Categorization

Approximately two-thirds (64.2%) of those entering the VR program did not complete the program successfully, regardless of gender. The age distribution between successful and unsuccessful participants was similar. Neither age nor gender seemed to have substantial influence on whether a participant successfully completed the program (see Table 2, page 9).

An unabridged version of this article is available at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0310/VR_full_article.pdf

Participants who completed the program successfully were much more likely to have earned wages after closure (see Table 3, <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0310/Images/alt3.jpg>). One year after closure, 72.6% of successful participants appeared in the Wage Record Database compared to 43.2% of those who did not complete the program successfully. Ten years after closure, the percentages were 83.9% and 65.3%, respectively.

One reason for an unsuccessful closure is “Unable to locate or contact or moved,” which may mean some participants had wage records in another state. Regardless, the VR program seems to have a strong positive influence on future employability.

When comparing quarterly wages between the two groups, successful participants tended to earn more income in the first four quarters after closure than participants with an unsuccessful completion. Table 4 (see page 10) demonstrates that in the 12 combinations of age and gender that were compared, participants who successfully completed the program earned more income in 10 of the comparisons than participants who did not successfully complete the program. For example, men in the 35 to 44 age group who successfully completed the program earned \$2,990 on average per quarter compared to \$2,605 for their unsuccessful counterparts. While not as dramatically, this relationship tended to hold true at the five-year mark as well. The average quarterly wage per participant is normally distributed around the overall mean (\$2,051).

Generally, participants with successful closures tended to have fewer employers on average, which suggests they had a higher retention rate with employers (Tables 3-6). This did not hold true for the most

senior age group. However, the number of observations was small – 58 successful and 48 unsuccessful participants in the 10-year, after-closure period (see Table 6, <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0310/Images/alt6.jpg>). Therefore, no strong conclusions regarding the most senior age group can be generalized.

VR participants, regardless of whether the program was completed successfully, lagged well behind in quarterly wages compared to the overall Wyoming population in all age categories, with the possible exception of the 19-and-under age group (see Table 7, <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/0310/Images/alt7.jpg>). Male participants in this group, regardless of closure status, actually earned more wages than the overall wages earned in the state. This may have been due to the fact that overall wages for this age category were generally low. Across gender, the wage replacement percentage generally dropped as participants aged.

Months of Participation Categorization

There are numerous factors that determine the length of participation in the VR program such as a participant’s severity of impairment and willingness to strive to achieve a successful completion to the program. One possibility is that the longer the time period of participation the more likely the participant is to obtain employment, and perhaps earn higher wages. The average duration of participation was 15 months for this dataset, while the median was 11 months.

The percentage of participants who obtained employment averaged 53.7%

(Text continued on page 11)

Table 2: Demographic Frequencies

Table 2A: Closure Status of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Participants in Wyoming by Age Group, Closure Date 1994-1996

Age Group	Successful		Result Not Successful		Overall	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
16 - 19	19	1.3%	176	6.6%	195	4.7%
20 - 24	193	13.0%	347	13.0%	540	13.0%
25 - 34	402	27.1%	707	26.5%	1,109	26.7%
35 - 44	502	33.8%	817	30.7%	1,319	31.8%
45 - 54	284	19.1%	497	18.7%	781	18.8%
55+	85	5.7%	120	4.5%	205	4.9%
Total	1,485	100.0%	2,664	100.0%	4,149	100.0%
% of Total		35.8%		64.2%		100.0%

Table 2B: Closure Status of Female VR Participants in Wyoming by Age Group, Closure Date 1994-1996

Age Group	Successful		Result Not Successful		Overall	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
16 - 19	7	1.1%	69	6.2%	76	4.3%
20 - 24	88	13.5%	138	12.4%	226	12.8%
25 - 34	154	23.6%	284	25.6%	438	24.8%
35 - 44	223	34.2%	354	31.9%	577	32.7%
45 - 54	142	21.7%	219	19.7%	361	20.5%
55+	39	6.0%	47	4.2%	86	4.9%
Total	653	100.0%	1,111	100.0%	1,764	100.0%
% of Total		37.0%		63.0%	42.5%	100.0%

Table 2C: Closure Status of Male VR Participants in Wyoming by Age Group, Closure Date 1994-1996

Age Group	Successful		Result Not Successful		Overall	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
16 - 19	12	1.4%	107	6.9%	119	5.0%
20 - 24	105	12.6%	209	13.5%	314	13.2%
25 - 34	248	29.8%	423	27.2%	671	28.1%
35 - 44	279	33.5%	463	29.8%	742	31.1%
45 - 54	142	17.1%	278	17.9%	420	17.6%
55+	46	5.5%	73	4.7%	119	5.0%
Total	832	100.0%	1,553	100.0%	2,385	100.0%
% of Total		34.9%		65.1%	57.5%	100.0%

Table 4: Wage Record Data of Vocational Rehabilitation Participants in Wyoming by Age Group, Gender, and Closure Type One Year After Closure, Closure Date 1994-1996

Age Group	Successful Closure				Unsuccessful Closure			
	Men	Women	Total	%	Men	Women	Total	%
Had Wages								
00-19	10	6	16	1.5%	65	37	102	8.9%
20-24	84	66	150	13.9%	116	65	181	15.7%
25-34	188	115	303	28.1%	232	122	354	30.8%
35-44	200	175	375	34.8%	185	140	325	28.3%
45-54	83	107	190	17.6%	75	83	158	13.7%
55+	24	20	44	4.1%	17	13	30	2.6%
Total	589	489	1,078		690	460	1,150	
%	54.6%	45.4%		100.0%	60.0%	40.0%		100.0%
Had No Wages								
00-19	2	1	3	0.7%	42	32	74	4.9%
20-24	21	22	43	10.6%	93	73	166	11.0%
25-34	60	39	99	24.3%	191	162	353	23.3%
35-44	79	48	127	31.2%	278	214	492	32.5%
45-54	59	35	94	23.1%	203	136	339	22.4%
55+	22	19	41	10.1%	56	34	90	5.9%
Total	243	164	407		863	651	1,514	
%	22.5%	15.2%		100.0%	57.0%	43.0%		100.0%
Total Wages								
00-19	\$65,311	\$13,970	\$79,282		\$186,064	\$78,727	\$264,791	
20-24	\$498,682	\$268,624	\$767,306		\$595,134	\$170,461	\$765,594	
25-34	\$1,480,301	\$667,227	\$2,147,528		\$1,506,723	\$521,150	\$2,027,874	
35-44	\$2,012,184	\$898,996	\$2,911,180		\$1,315,398	\$534,929	\$1,850,327	
45-54	\$548,236	\$650,025	\$1,198,260		\$490,362	\$364,115	\$854,477	
55+	\$176,929	\$83,847	\$260,776		\$77,576	\$65,162	\$142,738	
Total Quarters Worked								
00-19	37	13	50		168	92	260	
20-24	273	219	492		347	165	512	
25-34	656	382	1,038		678	349	1,027	
35-44	673	558	1,231		505	377	882	
45-54	241	361	602		207	228	435	
55+	78	65	143		45	36	81	
Total Transactions								
00-19	46	13	59		216	117	333	
20-24	322	269	591		466	208	674	
25-34	807	491	1,298		866	452	1,318	
35-44	808	690	1,498		632	475	1,107	
45-54	297	453	750		265	269	534	
55+	88	80	168		50	44	94	
Average Quarterly Wage								
00-19	\$1,765	\$1,075	\$1,586		\$1,108	\$856	\$1,018	
20-24	\$1,827	\$1,227	\$1,560		\$1,715	\$1,033	\$1,495	
25-34	\$2,257	\$1,747	\$2,069		\$2,222	\$1,493	\$1,975	
35-44	\$2,990	\$1,611	\$2,365		\$2,605	\$1,419	\$2,098	
45-54	\$2,275	\$1,801	\$1,990		\$2,369	\$1,597	\$1,964	
55+	\$2,268	\$1,290	\$1,824		\$1,724	\$1,810	\$1,762	
Average Number of Employers								
00-19	1.9	1.2	1.6		2.2	2.0	2.1	
20-24	1.7	1.8	1.7		2.2	1.9	2.1	
25-34	1.8	1.9	1.8		2.1	1.9	2.0	
35-44	1.7	1.8	1.7		1.8	1.7	1.8	
45-54	1.6	1.6	1.6		2.0	1.7	1.8	
55+	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.4	1.6	1.5	

(Text continued from page 8)

across all participants one year after closure. This percentage did not vary by gender, nor months of participation, with the possible exception of those who participated 0 to 3 months (49.8%). Five years after closure, the overall percentage of participants found in the Wage Records Database increased to 67.4% (see Table 8, page 12). There are no clear-cut trends in the percentage of participants with wages, average quarterly wages, or average number of employers across the four months of participation categories.

Wyoming Economic Conditions (Unemployment Rate) from 1994 through 2009

In periods of economic volatility and instability, external economic factors may be the main determinant of an individual's employment, overwhelming all other factors.

Over the period being discussed, Wyoming has had a relatively low and stable unemployment rate compared to the national rate. Across this period, the average monthly unemployment rate in the state was 4.3%, with a low of 2.7% in January 2008, and a high of 7.5% in December 2009 (Preliminary; Bureau of Labor Statistics). Wyoming lagged behind most other states in regard to the impact of the recession, with unemployment rates not exceeding 5.0% until June 2009 (see Figure 1, page 13). Therefore, the conclusion is that external economic factors did not unduly influence VR participants' employment prospects.

2007-08 Participants in Comparison

While the main objective of this study was to examine the long-term impact of the VR

program, it is also useful to briefly compare participants in the 1994-96 period to a more recent set of participants (2007-08). Roughly two-thirds of program participants with closure dates within the 1994-96 period did not complete the program successfully (see Table 2A). Additionally, participants with successful outcomes were more likely to appear in the Wage Records Database. One question asked was how do more recent program participants fare in terms of program completion and wage earnings?

To address this question, participants with closure dates within the 2007-08 period were examined (see Table 9, page 13). The success rate of the program has increased compared to the 1994-96 period. The overall effect may be even greater given that the definition of success is more rigorous in the later period. Success in both periods was determined as having a type of closure of "03." However, the definition of this closure type in the earlier period was closed rehabilitated, while in the later period it was exited with an employment outcome. Given that in the later period there was also a closure type of "04" defined as exited without an employment outcome, after receiving services, the later period's definition of success was more restrictive.

Further Research

A more complete analysis would include the wage records of surrounding states to fully capture the wages of participants who moved out of state after closure. These data are available for approximately the last five years.

Two elements of the vocational rehabilitation data have not yet been

examined: the severity of the injury or disability and the type of rehabilitation provided. Also, this study examined only the wage records of participants after closure. It may be useful to look at participants' work history prior to admittance to the VR program. By looking at the participants' pre- and post-closure history, a measure of the replacement of prior wages could be calculated.

A cost-benefit analysis of the VR program could be conducted. The cost of each participant's rehabilitation is included in the

dataset, as well as some information regarding public assistance received. Combined with wage record data, the cost effectiveness of the VR program could be estimated.

Benefits to Using the Wage Records Database to Assess the Efficacy of the VR Program

Every three years, the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) must submit a statewide needs assessment that "must examine the

Table 8. Results Five Years After Closure by Months of Participation in Wyoming Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Closure Date 1994-1996

Gender		Months of Participation in VR				Total
		0 to 3 Months	4 to 12 Months	13 to 24 Months	24+ Months	
Male	Had Wages	295	600	397	294	1,586
	No Wages	146	316	179	158	799
	% in Wage Records	66.9%	65.5%	68.9%	65.0%	66.5%
	Total Wages	\$8,347,016	\$17,686,883	\$15,126,365	\$12,390,571	\$53,550,835
	Total Quarters Worked	2,858	6,112	4,917	3,608	17,495
	Total Transactions	3,599	7,465	6,053	4,386	21,503
	Average Quarterly Wage	\$2,651	\$2,471	\$2,570	\$3,141	\$2,694
	Average Number of Employers	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.7
	Total Number of Employers	1,351	2,345	1,634	1,118	6,448
Female	Had Wages	175	481	335	218	1,209
	No Wages	107	200	144	104	555
	% in Wage Records	62.1%	70.6%	69.9%	67.7%	68.5%
	Total Wages	\$2,886,111	\$8,626,889	\$6,933,489	\$5,059,685	\$23,506,174
	Total Quarters Worked	1,652	4,849	3,732	2,383	12,616
	Total Transactions	2,086	5,956	4,679	2,950	15,671
	Average Quarterly Wage	\$1,620	\$1,703	\$1,642	\$2,062	\$1,738
	Average Number of Employers	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.7
	Total Number of Employers	701	1,814	1,292	774	4,581
Total	Had Wages	470	1,081	732	512	2,795
	No Wages	253	516	323	262	1,354
	% in Wage Records	65.0%	67.7%	69.4%	66.1%	67.4%
	Total Wages	\$11,233,128	\$26,313,772	\$22,059,854	\$17,450,256	\$77,057,008
	Total Quarters Worked	4,510	10,961	8,649	5,991	30,111
	Total Transactions	5,685	13,421	10,732	7,336	37,174
	Average Quarterly Wage	\$2,096	\$2,117	\$2,142	\$2,650	\$2,235
	Average Number of Employers	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.7
	Number of Employers	2,052	4,159	2,926	1,892	11,029

need to establish, develop, or improve community rehabilitation programs within the state.” (Western Management Services, p. 3). Special attention must be given to four disability populations: veterans with disabilities, students in transition, participants with an acquired brain injury, and minorities with disabilities.

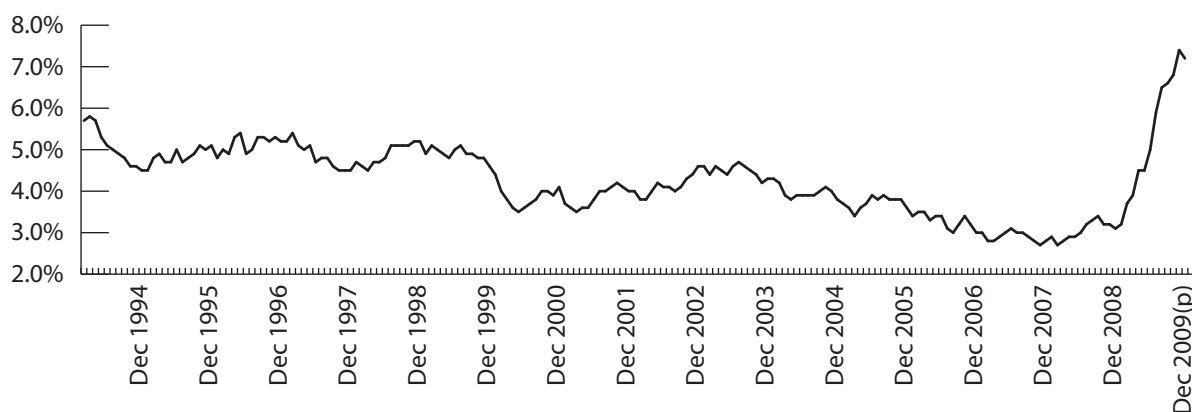
The use of the Wage Records Database could aid in the preparation of this assessment as it provides a less expensive means of wage data collection. For the 2009 report, surveys were used to collect wage information; this was an unnecessary re-doubling of efforts as these data are already captured by the UI Wage Records Database. Rather than gathering data from a small sample of VR participants, wage data for the vast majority of participants could be analyzed. In addition, the longitudinal nature of the data allows for long-term impact assessment that is not possible by any other means.

As an example of enhancements that the wage record data could provide, please see Table 14 in the 2009 Wyoming assessment publication. (Western Management Services, p. 19). This table

lists the causes of disability, the number of participants in each category, and the percentage of the total participants. By using the wage record data, this table could be expanded to include the number of participants that appeared in the Wage Records Database before and after their respective closure dates along with the number of quarters worked and their average quarterly wages. For example, in the case of those 148 participants with an acquired brain injury (ABI) who had closure dates in calendar year 2007 or 2008, 92.6% had wage records prior to the quarter of their closure, and 56.1% had wage records post closure. Each cause of disability could be examined and

Table 9: Success Rates of Vocational Rehabilitation Participants in Wyoming with Closure Dates in 2007 or 2008

Closure Year	Result	Count	Percent
2007	Not Successful	1,027	58.6%
	Success	725	41.4%
	Total	1,752	100.0%
2008	Not Successful	798	60.1%
	Success	530	39.9%
	Total	1,328	100.0%



(p) Preliminary.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program.

Retrieved March 2, 2010, from <http://www.bls.gov/lau/#tables>.

Figure 1: Wyoming Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, December 1994 to December 2009

ranked in terms of employment outcomes. These could be used to identify potential improvements in the VR program and to set benchmarks for improvement.

References

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Indexes Program. (2010). Table Containing History of CPI-U U.S. All Items Indexes and Annual Percent Changes From 1913 to Present. Available from <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpi.ai.txt>
- Glover, W. (2003). An introduction to wage records applications. Released to States participating in the Wage Records Application Project, February 2003. Wyoming Department of Employment, Research & Planning. <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/staff/WRAP.pdf>
- Gordon, R., Schaff, M., and Shaw, G. (2004, May). Using wage records in workforce investments in Ohio. *Monthly Labor Review*, 127(5), 40-43. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2004/05/art5full.pdf>
- U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2005, September). Vocational Rehabilitation: *Better measures and monitoring could improve the performance of the VR program*. (Publication No. GAO-05-865). <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07521.pdf>
- Government Accountability Office. (2007, May). *Vocational Rehabilitation: Improved information and practice may enhance state agency earnings outcomes for SSA beneficiaries*. (Publication No. GAO-07-521). <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05865.pdf>
- Hayward, B.J., Schmidt-Davis, H. (2003). Longitudinal study of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program final report 1: How consumer characteristics affect access to, receipt of, and outcomes of VR services. RTI International. Submitted to U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. Available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/rehab/vr-final-report-1.pdf>
- Leonard, D. W. (2009). Methodology and results. In Ellsworth, P. (Ed.) *Post-injury wage loss: A quasi-experimental design*. (pp. 28-41) http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/post_injury/report.pdf
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2007). *SA04 State income and employment summary – Wyoming*. Retrieved May 15, 2007, from <http://www.bea.gov/regional/spi/default.cfm>
- U.S. Department of Education. (1995). Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Rehabilitation Services Administration. RSA-PD-95-04. RSM-1250. Date: May 01, 1995. Subject: Announcement of OMB approval for Collection of Data in the Case Service Report (RSA-911). File received via e-mail from Pepin, J., Data Collection and Analysis Unit, State Monitoring and Program Improvement Division/RSA.
- Western Management Services, LLC. (2010). *Wyoming Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs 2009*. Prepared for the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the State Rehabilitation Council. Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.



Ask an Economist:

What Are Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted Estimates?

by: Carola Cowan, Bureau of Labor Statistics Program Supervisor

Each month the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Employment produces seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the State of Wyoming in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The BLS is replacing seasonally adjusted estimates with smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates starting with the publication of the January 2010 unemployment rates (Bureau of Labor Statistics). This is in response to state users who have voiced concerns about the month-to-month volatility in the official seasonally adjusted estimates. When statistically modeling a data series such as the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, changes within an accepted range may occur. Changes that are not statistically significant don't reflect any real underlying change, but this can be confusing to the average data user.

The smoothed seasonally adjusted estimates reduce the number of questionable turning points in the current estimate compared to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (see Figure). The smoothed seasonally adjusted methodology also improves the annual revision process by smoothing estimates between December and January, making the estimates more comparable (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The BLS smoothes the estimates using the Henderson Trend Filter that suppresses irregular variation in the current month. According to the BLS, this filtering procedure, based on moving averages, removes irregular fluctuations from the seasonally adjusted series, leaving the trend (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The entire series of seasonally adjusted estimates for Wyoming will be replaced from January 1976 through December

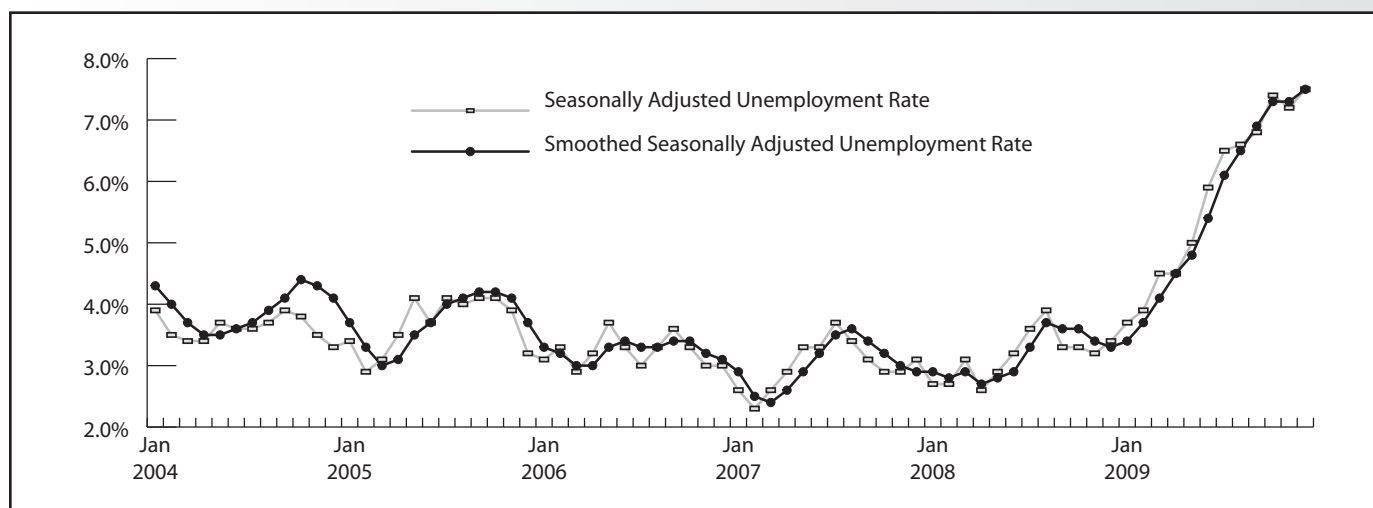


Figure: Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate and Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate, 2004-2009

2009 and will be available at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/laus/toc.htm>

References

Bureau of Labor Statistics, (2010a).
Smoothed Seasonally Adjusted

Estimates (SSA) Questions and
Answers. Retrieved March 8, 2010, from
<http://www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.htm>

Bureau of Labor Statistics (2010b). Local
Area Unemployment Statistics.
Seasonal Adjustment. Retrieved March
8, 2010, from <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lauseas.htm>

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.6% in January

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Employment has reported that the state's seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate increased from 7.5% in December to 7.6% in January (not a statistically significant change). Despite this increase, Wyoming's unemployment rate remained significantly lower than the U.S. rate (9.7%). The state's labor force, or sum of employed and unemployed individuals, decreased slightly from a year earlier (an estimated -384 people, or -0.1%).

Over the year, employment decreased by 14,400 jobs (-5.0%). The largest job losses occurred in natural resources & mining (-4,700 jobs, or -16.1%) and construction (-2,800 jobs, or -12.3%). Employment also fell in leisure & hospitality (-1,900 jobs, or -6.1%), professional & business services (-1,400 jobs, or -8.1%), other services (-1,300 jobs, or -10.7%), retail trade (-1,200 jobs, or -3.9%), and transportation & utilities (-700 jobs, or -4.9%). Job gains were seen in educational & health services (400 jobs, or 1.6%) and government

(including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; 600 jobs, or 0.9%).

From December to January Wyoming employment fell by 6,500 jobs (-2.3%). This level of decrease is consistent with normal seasonal patterns. Seasonal job losses were seen in construction (-1,100 jobs, or -5.2%), retail trade (-1,300 jobs, or -4.2%), professional & business services (-500 jobs, or -3.0%), leisure & hospitality (-400 jobs, or -1.4%), and government (including public schools, colleges, and hospitals; -2,500 jobs, or -3.4%).

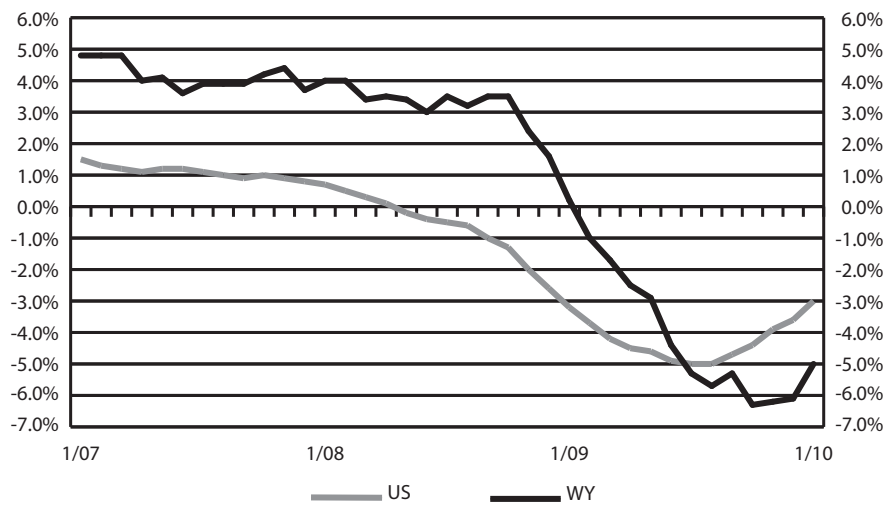
Most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased from December to January. Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (11.0%) followed by Big Horn (10.8%), Johnson (10.7%), and Fremont (10.3%) counties. The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany (5.7%), Sublette (5.8%), and Goshen (6.8%) counties.

The Wyoming employment news release with February data is scheduled to be issued on March 30, 2010.

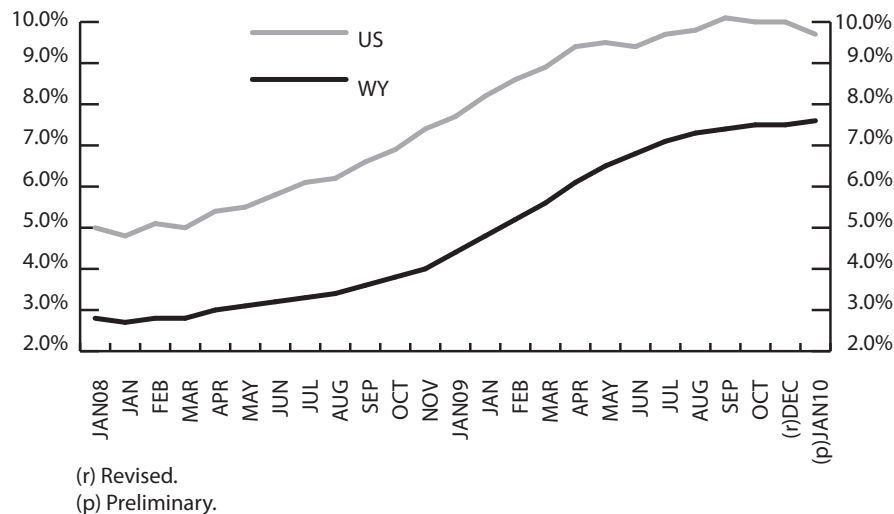


¹ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series in order to obtain a better understanding of changes in economic conditions from month to month.

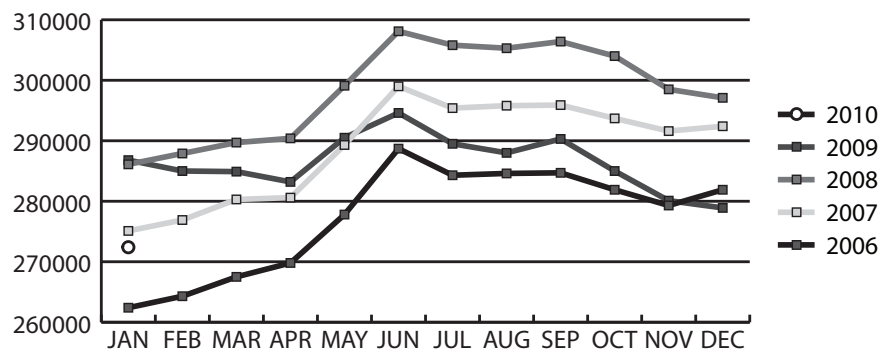
Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate (Percentage)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates January 2010 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	15.9
Michigan	14.3
Nevada	13.0
Rhode Island	12.7
South Carolina	12.6
California	12.5
District of Columbia	12.0
Florida	11.9
Illinois	11.3
Alabama	11.1
North Carolina	11.1
Mississippi	10.9
Ohio	10.8
Kentucky	10.7
Oregon	10.7
Tennessee	10.7
Georgia	10.4
New Jersey	9.9
Indiana	9.7
United States	9.7
Massachusetts	9.5
Missouri	9.5
Idaho	9.3
Washington	9.3
West Virginia	9.3
Arizona	9.2
Connecticut	9.0
Delaware	9.0
New York	8.8
Pennsylvania	8.8
Wisconsin	8.7
Alaska	8.5
New Mexico	8.5
Maine	8.2
Texas	8.2
Arkansas	7.6
Wyoming	7.6
Maryland	7.5
Colorado	7.4
Louisiana	7.4
Minnesota	7.3
New Hampshire	7.0
Hawaii	6.9
Virginia	6.9
Montana	6.8
Utah	6.8
Oklahoma	6.7
Vermont	6.7
Iowa	6.6
Kansas	6.4
South Dakota	4.8
Nebraska	4.6
North Dakota	4.2

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

Over-the-year job losses in Natrona County (6.5%) were larger than in Laramie County (-1.4%) or Wyoming (-5.0%).

	% Change				
	Employment in Thousands		Total Employment		
	Jan 10(p)	Dec 09(r)	Jan 09	Dec 09	Jan 10
WYOMING STATEWIDE					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	272.4	278.9	286.8	-2.3	-5.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	201.7	205.7	216.7	-1.9	-6.9
GOODS PRODUCING	53.6	54.7	61.6	-2.0	-13.0
Natural Resources & Mining	24.5	24.4	29.2	0.4	-16.1
Mining	24.5	24.3	29.1	0.8	-15.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.9	3.9	4.2	0.0	-7.1
Mining Except Oil & Gas	9.7	9.6	9.9	1.0	-2.0
Coal Mining	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	1.4
Support Activities for Mining	10.9	10.8	15.0	0.9	-27.3
Support Act. for Oil & Gas	7.7	7.9	11.2	-2.5	-31.3
Construction	20.0	21.1	22.8	-5.2	-12.3
Construction of Buildings	3.8	4.0	4.5	-5.0	-15.6
Heavy & Engineering Constr.	5.9	6.5	6.7	-9.2	-11.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	10.3	10.6	11.6	-2.8	-11.2
Manufacturing	9.1	9.2	9.6	-1.1	-5.2
Durable Goods	4.6	4.6	5.1	0.0	-9.8
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.6	4.5	-2.2	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	218.8	224.2	225.2	-2.4	-2.8
Trade, Trans., Warehousing, & Util.	51.8	53.4	54.1	-3.0	-4.3
Wholesale Trade	8.6	8.6	9.0	0.0	-4.4
Merch. Wholesalers, Durable	5.6	5.5	5.9	1.8	-5.1
Retail Trade	29.5	30.8	30.7	-4.2	-3.9
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	-2.4
Food & Beverage Stores	4.6	4.8	4.6	-4.2	0.0
Grocery Stores	3.9	4.0	3.9	-2.5	0.0
Gasoline Stations	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-5.1
General Merchandise Stores	6.4	6.8	6.5	-5.9	-1.5
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1.7	1.8	1.8	-5.6	-5.6
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	13.7	14.0	14.4	-2.1	-4.9
Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0
Transp. & Warehousing	11.2	11.5	11.9	-2.6	-5.9
Truck Transportation	3.8	3.9	4.3	-2.6	-11.6
Information	3.9	3.9	4.0	0.0	-2.5
Financial Activities	10.9	11.0	11.3	-0.9	-3.5
Finance & Insurance	7.0	7.0	7.1	0.0	-1.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.9	4.0	4.2	-2.5	-7.1
Professional & Business Services	15.9	16.4	17.3	-3.0	-8.1
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	8.6	8.8	9.8	-2.3	-12.2
Architect., Engineering, & Rel.	2.7	2.7	2.9	0.0	-6.9
Mgmt. of Co.s & Enterprises	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-12.5
Admin., Support, & Waste Svcs.	6.6	6.9	6.7	-4.3	-1.5
Educational & Health Services	25.6	25.7	25.2	-0.4	1.6
Educational Services	2.6	2.7	2.6	-3.7	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	23.0	23.0	22.6	0.0	1.8
Ambulatory Health Care	8.5	8.5	8.2	0.0	3.7
Offices of Physicians	3.1	3.2	3.1	-3.1	0.0
Hospitals	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Nursing & Res. Care Facilities	4.5	4.5	4.6	0.0	-2.2
Social Assistance	6.7	6.7	6.5	0.0	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	29.2	29.6	31.1	-1.4	-6.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Rec.	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.3	0.0
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	27.0	27.3	28.9	-1.1	-6.6
Accommodation	9.4	9.3	10.6	1.1	-11.3
Food Svcs. & Drinking Places	17.6	18.0	18.3	-2.2	-3.8
Other Services	10.8	11.0	12.1	-1.8	-10.7
Repair & Maintenance	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.0	-12.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	70.7	73.2	70.1	-3.4	0.9
Federal Government	6.9	7.3	7.0	-5.5	-1.4
State Government	15.9	16.5	16.2	-3.6	-1.9
State Government Education	6.6	7.2	6.7	-8.3	-1.5
Local Government	47.9	49.4	46.9	-3.0	2.1
Local Government Education	24.6	25.8	24.3	-4.7	1.2
Hospitals	6.8	6.8	6.6	0.0	3.0

	% Change				
	Employment in Thousands		Total Employment		
	Jan 10(p)	Dec 09(r)	Jan 09	Dec 09	Jan 10
LARAMIE COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	43.0	43.9	43.6	-2.1	-1.4
TOTAL PRIVATE	29.2	29.9	29.9	-2.3	-2.3
GOODS PRODUCING	4.2	4.4	4.2	-4.5	0.0
Natural Res., Mining, & Const.	2.8	2.9	2.7	-3.4	3.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.5	1.5	-6.7	-6.7
SERVICE PROVIDING	38.8	39.5	39.4	-1.8	-1.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.9	9.2	9.2	-3.3	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.1	5.4	5.3	-5.6	-3.8
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-3.2
Information	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	2.9	3.0	3.2	-3.3	-9.4
Educational & Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	4.2	4.3	4.4	-2.3	-4.5
Other Services	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	13.8	14.0	13.7	-1.4	0.7
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.6	0.0	3.8
State Government	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	-4.8
Local Government	7.1	7.3	6.9	-2.7	2.9
Local Education	3.6	3.8	3.5	-5.3	2.9
NATRONA COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	37.3	38.3	39.9	-2.6	-6.5
TOTAL PRIVATE	31.2	32.0	33.9	-2.5	-8.0
GOODS PRODUCING	6.8	6.9	8.3	-1.4	-18.1
Natural Resources & Mining	2.8	2.8	3.8	0.0	-26.3
Construction	2.5	2.6	2.6	-3.8	-3.8
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.9	0.0	-21.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	30.5	31.4	31.6	-2.9	-3.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	8.4	8.7	8.9	-3.4	-5.6
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.6	0.0	-11.5
Retail Trade	5.0	5.2	5.1	-3.8	-2.0
Trans., Warehousing, & Utilities	1.1	1.2	1.2	-8.3	-8.3
Information	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	1.9	2.0	2.0	-5.0	-5.0
Professional & Business Services	2.5	2.6	2.7	-3.8	-7.4
Educational & Health Services	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	3.7	3.9	3.8	-5.1	-2.6
Other Services	1.9	1.9	2.3	0.0	-17.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	6.1	6.3	6.0	-3.2	1.7
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	4.7	4.9	4.6	-4.1	2.2
Local Education	3.2	3.4	3.2	-5.9	0.0

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 that includes the 12th of the month. Self-employed, domestic services, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. Data are not seasonally adjusted. Data for Wyoming, Laramie County, and Natrona County are published in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(Continued)

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jan 10(p)	Dec 09(r)	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 10
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.2	29.3	29.7	-0.3	-1.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	24.7	24.9	25.3	-0.8	-2.4
GOODS PRODUCING	12.3	12.5	12.8	-1.6	-3.9
Natural Resources & Mining	7.6	7.7	8.4	-1.3	-9.5
Construction	4.1	4.2	3.8	-2.4	7.9
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.9	16.8	16.9	0.6	0.0
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.6	5.6	5.7	0.0	-1.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	-5.0
Educational & Health Serv.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
Other Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.5	4.4	4.4	2.3	2.3

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jan 10(p)	Dec 09(r)	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 10
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	23.0	23.6	25.5	-2.5	-9.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	18.4	18.8	21.0	-2.1	-12.4
GOODS PRODUCING	7.3	7.4	9.2	-1.4	-20.7
Natural Resources & Mining	4.8	4.8	6.2	0.0	-22.6
Construction	1.2	1.3	1.7	-7.7	-29.4
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	15.7	16.2	16.3	-3.1	-3.7
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	5.0	5.1	5.3	-2.0	-5.7
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Bus. Services	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.0	-18.2
Educational & Health Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.0	10.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.4	2.5	-4.2	-8.0
Other Services	0.7	0.8	0.8	-12.5	-12.5
GOVERNMENT	4.6	4.8	4.5	-4.2	2.2

	Employment in Thousands		% Change Total Employment		
	Jan 10(p)	Dec 09(r)	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 10
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	15.9	16.1	17.1	-1.2	-7.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	13.6	13.8	14.9	-1.4	-8.7
GOODS PRODUCING	1.6	1.9	2.3	-15.8	-30.4
Nat. Res., Mining & Const.	1.5	1.7	2.2	-11.8	-31.8
Manufacturing	0.1	0.2	0.1	-50.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	14.3	14.2	14.8	0.7	-3.4
Trade, Transport., & Utilities	2.2	2.3	2.4	-4.3	-8.3
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
Professional & Bus. Services	1.4	1.5	1.5	-6.7	-6.7
Educational & Health Serv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.1	5.8	6.2	5.2	-1.6
Other Services	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	-20.0
GOVERNMENT	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5

State Unemployment Rates January 2010 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	15.8
Michigan	14.9
Nevada	13.7
Rhode Island	13.4
California	13.2
South Carolina	13.2
Florida	12.2
Illinois	12.2
District of Columbia	12.0
Mississippi	12.0
Alabama	11.8
North Carolina	11.8
Ohio	11.8
Oregon	11.8
Kentucky	11.7
Tennessee	11.5
Georgia	10.9
Idaho	10.7
Indiana	10.6
United States	10.6
West Virginia	10.5
Massachusetts	10.4
New Jersey	10.3
Washington	10.2
Missouri	9.9
Connecticut	9.8
Arizona	9.7
Alaska	9.6
Delaware	9.6
Wisconsin	9.6
Pennsylvania	9.5
New York	9.4
Maine	9.3
New Mexico	8.9
Texas	8.6
Wyoming	8.6
Arkansas	8.5
Maryland	8.3
Colorado	8.2
Louisiana	8.2
Minnesota	8.2
Montana	8.0
New Hampshire	7.7
Virginia	7.6
Iowa	7.5
Vermont	7.5
Utah	7.4
Oklahoma	7.3
Kansas	7.1
Hawaii	7.0
Nebraska	5.5
South Dakota	5.5
North Dakota	5.0

Economic Indicators

by: Margaret Hiatt, Administrative/Survey Support Specialist

The number of unemployed individuals in Wyoming increased from 16,013 in January 2009 to 25,017 in January 2010.

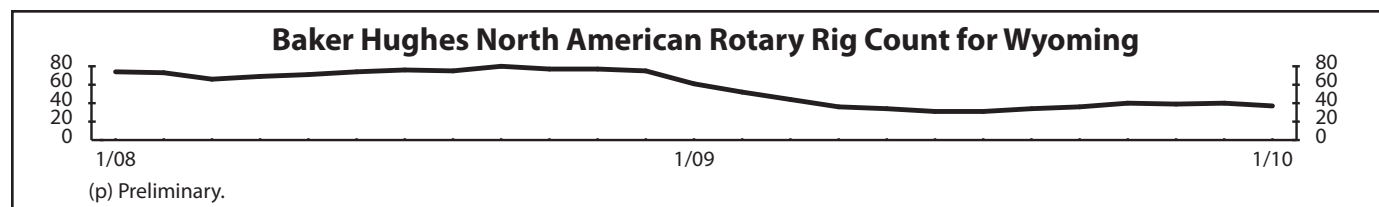
	Jan 2010 (p)	Dec 2009 (r)	Jan 2009 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Civilian Labor Force¹	289,998	290,112	290,382	0.0	-0.1
Unemployed	25,017	22,085	16,013	13.3	56.2
Employed	264,981	268,027	274,369	-1.1	-3.4
Wyoming Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	8.6%/7.6%	7.6%/7.5%	5.5%/4.4%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Unemployment Rate/Seas. Adj.	10.6%/9.7%	9.7%/10.0%	8.5%/7.7%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	6,751,000	6,886,000	7,258,000	-2.0	-7.0
As a percent of all workers	4.9%	5.0%	5.2%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	1,065,000	929,000	734,000	14.6	45.1
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	9,290,000	9,354,000	8,829,000	-0.7	5.2
Hours & Earnings for Production Workers					
Wyoming Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$826.06	\$837.89	\$863.96	-1.4	-4.4
Average Weekly Hours	40.1	41.5	41.2	-3.4	-2.7
U.S. Manufacturing Hours & Earnings					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$749.07	\$758.71	\$712.98	-1.3	5.1
Average Weekly Hours	40.6	41.1	39.5	-1.2	2.8
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	45,103	50,922	28,002	-11.4	61.1
Benefits Paid	\$15,233,944	\$17,079,739	\$9,055,307	-10.8	68.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$337.76	\$335.41	\$323.38	0.7	4.4
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	256,163	260,523	263,312	-1.7	-2.7
Insured Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.3%	2.3%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers					
(1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	216.7	215.9	211.1	0.3	2.6
Food & Beverages	219.2	218.0	219.7	0.5	-0.2
Housing	215.9	215.5	216.9	0.2	-0.5
Apparel	116.7	119.4	114.8	-2.2	1.7
Transportation	190.5	188.3	166.7	1.2	14.3
Medical Care	382.7	379.5	369.8	0.8	3.5
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	113.3	113.2	113.8	0.1	-0.4
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	129.1	128.9	126.2	0.1	2.3
Other Goods & Services	377.7	377.3	350.3	0.1	7.8
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	182.0	178.1	171.2	2.2	6.3
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	68	88	78	-22.7	-12.8
Valuation	\$26,720,000	\$18,431,000	\$12,035,000	45.0	122.0
Single Family Homes	68	64	53	6.3	28.3
Valuation	\$26,720,000	\$17,231,000	\$11,047,000	55.1	141.9
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	2	26	12	-92.3	-83.3
Valuation	\$188,000	\$4,196,000	\$1,780,000	-95.5	-89.4
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	24	22	11	9.1	118.2
Valuation	\$4,111,000	\$3,572,000	\$1,517,000	15.1	171.0
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	37	40	61	-7.5	-39.3

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

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Hours and earnings data for mining have been dropped from the Economics Indicators page as data for Wyoming mining are no longer available.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

Lincoln County posted the highest unemployment rate (11.0%), followed by Big Horn (10.8%), Johnson (10.7%), and Fremont (10.3%) counties.

REGION County	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan	Jan	Dec	Jan
	2010	2009	2009	2010	2009	2009	2010	2009	2009	2010	2009	2009
	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	44,515	44,466	43,382	40,207	40,798	40,317	4,308	3,668	3,065	9.7	8.2	7.1
Big Horn	4,995	4,979	4,776	4,456	4,532	4,424	539	447	352	10.8	9.0	7.4
Fremont	18,802	18,652	18,514	16,870	17,036	17,146	1,932	1,616	1,368	10.3	8.7	7.4
Hot Springs	2,407	2,438	2,434	2,236	2,284	2,291	171	154	143	7.1	6.3	5.9
Park	13,983	14,074	13,450	12,686	12,901	12,513	1,297	1,173	937	9.3	8.3	7.0
Washakie	4,328	4,323	4,208	3,959	4,045	3,943	369	278	265	8.5	6.4	6.3
NORTHEAST	55,169	54,778	54,680	50,553	50,656	52,037	4,616	4,122	2,643	8.4	7.5	4.8
Campbell	28,628	28,302	27,968	26,487	26,332	26,965	2,141	1,970	1,003	7.5	7.0	3.6
Crook	3,411	3,430	3,464	3,158	3,201	3,285	253	229	179	7.4	6.7	5.2
Johnson	3,881	3,874	3,946	3,465	3,505	3,700	416	369	246	10.7	9.5	6.2
Sheridan	16,069	15,975	16,037	14,525	14,668	15,014	1,544	1,307	1,023	9.6	8.2	6.4
Weston	3,180	3,197	3,265	2,918	2,950	3,073	262	247	192	8.2	7.7	5.9
SOUTHWEST	61,786	61,622	64,375	56,419	56,792	61,117	5,367	4,830	3,258	8.7	7.8	5.1
Lincoln	8,110	7,928	8,118	7,215	7,208	7,490	895	720	628	11.0	9.1	7.7
Sublette	7,048	6,744	7,482	6,636	6,408	7,265	412	336	217	5.8	5.0	2.9
Sweetwater	22,885	23,020	24,173	20,865	21,257	23,125	2,020	1,763	1,048	8.8	7.7	4.3
Teton	12,709	12,857	13,272	11,675	11,729	12,490	1,034	1,128	782	8.1	8.8	5.9
Uinta	11,034	11,073	11,330	10,028	10,190	10,747	1,006	883	583	9.1	8.0	5.1
SOUTHEAST	73,646	74,324	72,415	67,749	69,226	68,192	5,897	5,098	4,223	8.0	6.9	5.8
Albany	19,355	19,959	18,888	18,246	19,034	18,172	1,109	925	716	5.7	4.6	3.8
Goshen	6,101	6,235	6,020	5,684	5,869	5,710	417	366	310	6.8	5.9	5.1
Laramie	43,024	42,965	42,314	39,105	39,559	39,459	3,919	3,406	2,855	9.1	7.9	6.7
Niobrara	1,219	1,216	1,244	1,127	1,142	1,174	92	74	70	7.5	6.1	5.6
Platte	3,947	3,949	3,949	3,587	3,622	3,677	360	327	272	9.1	8.3	6.9
CENTRAL	54,883	54,917	55,527	50,052	50,552	52,704	4,831	4,365	2,823	8.8	7.9	5.1
Carbon	7,474	7,447	7,679	6,763	6,831	7,174	711	616	505	9.5	8.3	6.6
Converse	7,394	7,383	7,301	6,845	6,871	6,951	549	512	350	7.4	6.9	4.8
Natrona	40,015	40,087	40,547	36,444	36,850	38,579	3,571	3,237	1,968	8.9	8.1	4.9
STATEWIDE	289,998	290,112	290,382	264,981	268,027	274,369	25,017	22,085	16,013	8.6	7.6	5.5
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										7.6	7.5	4.4
U.S.....										10.6	9.7	8.5
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted.....										9.7	10.0	7.7

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 03/2010. Run Date 3/2010.

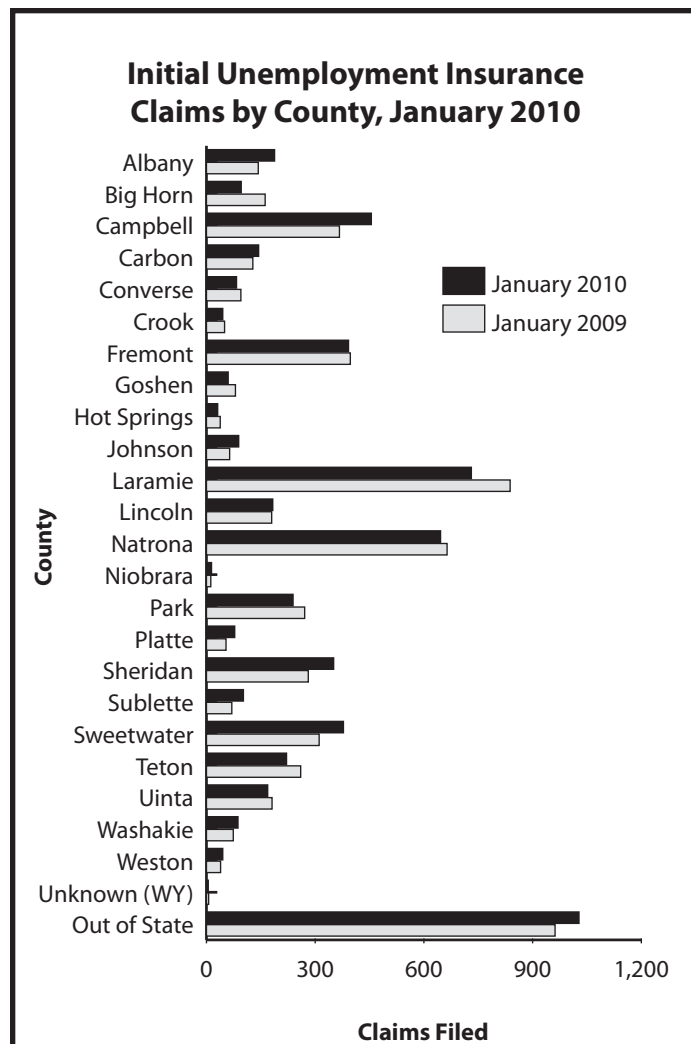
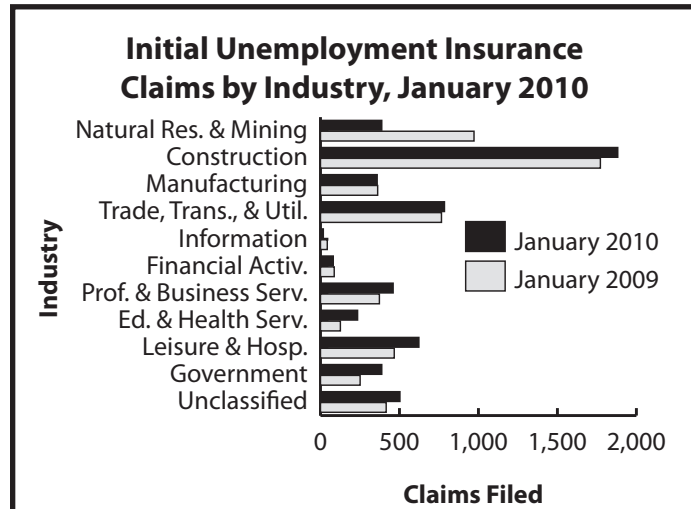
Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

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

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Statewide initial claims in mining were considerably lower than last year (-63.9%), while substantially increasing in education and health services (86.5%) and leisure and hospitality (33.4%).



Initial Claims	Claims Filed		Percent Change		Claims Filed
	Jan 10	Dec 09	Jan 09	Dec 09	Jan 09
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	5,859	5,973	5,725	-1.9	2.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,629	3,205	3,106	-18.0	-15.4
Natural Res. & Mining	388	441	972	-12.0	-60.1
Mining	340	406	941	-16.3	-63.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	22	18	52	22.2	-57.7
Construction	1,882	2,462	1,772	-23.6	6.2
Manufacturing	359	302	362	18.9	-0.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	2,339	1,831	1,952	27.7	19.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	785	595	766	31.9	2.5
Wholesale Trade	84	78	100	7.7	-16.0
Retail Trade	491	333	408	47.4	20.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	210	184	258	14.1	-18.6
Information	18	16	43	12.5	-58.1
Financial Activities	81	60	87	35.0	-6.9
Prof. and Business Svcs.	460	394	373	16.8	23.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	235	170	126	38.2	86.5
Leisure & Hospitality	623	509	467	22.4	33.4
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	137	87	90	57.5	52.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	388	313	251	24.0	54.6
Federal Government	178	149	108	19.5	64.8
State Government	38	23	27	65.2	40.7
Local Government	172	141	116	22.0	48.3
Local Education	27	28	19	-3.6	42.1
UNCLASSIFIED	503	624	416	-19.4	20.9

Laramie County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	730	806	838	-9.4	-12.9
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	354	455	410	-22.2	-13.7
Construction	263	380	274	-30.8	-4.0
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	323	296	365	9.1	-11.5
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	138	121	212	14.0	-34.9
Financial Activities	19	12	12	58.3	58.3
Prof. & Business Svcs.	82	75	45	9.3	82.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	23	27	27	-14.8	-14.8
Leisure & Hospitality	52	48	52	8.3	0.0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	35	27	24	29.6	45.8
UNCLASSIFIED	18	28	39	-35.7	-53.8

Natrona County					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	644	767	662	-16.0	-2.7
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	311	483	380	-35.6	-18.2
Construction	228	377	208	-39.5	9.6
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	296	250	250	18.4	18.4
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	103	86	84	19.8	22.6
Financial Activities	7	8	10	-12.5	-30.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	51	59	50	-13.6	2.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	35	32	29	9.4	20.7
Leisure & Hospitality	56	50	45	12.0	24.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	25	17	10	47.1	150.0
UNCLASSIFIED	12	17	22	-29.4	-45.5

^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Douglas W. Leonard, Senior Economist

Statewide continued weeks claimed rose 13.0% compared to December and 68.9% compared to January 2009. Claims for extended benefits declined slightly compared to December (-4.6%).

Continued Claims

	Continued Weeks Claimed			Percent Change	
				Weeks Claimed	
	Jan 10	Dec 09	Jan 09	Jan 10	Jan 09
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	56,345	49,842	33,352	13.0	68.9
EXTENDED WEEKS CLAIMED	23,894	25,057	4,165	-4.6	473.7
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS^b	16,099	12,356	10,003	30.3	60.9
<i>Benefit Exhaustions</i>	1,466	1,294	446	13.3	228.7
<i>Benefit Exhaustion Rates</i>	9.1%	10.5%	4.5%	-1.4%	4.6%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	24,321	19,338	16,769	25.8	45.0
Natural Res. & Mining	4,491	4,451	3,366	0.9	33.4
Mining	4,096	4,134	3,126	-0.9	31.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	275	279	596	-1.4	-53.9
Construction	17,281	12,976	11,309	33.2	52.8
Manufacturing	2,549	1,911	2,094	33.4	21.7
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	22,197	21,698	11,594	2.3	91.5
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	6,976	6,402	3,459	9.0	101.7
Wholesale Trade	1,116	1,129	515	-1.2	116.7
Retail Trade	4,115	3,511	1,977	17.2	108.1
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,745	1,762	967	-1.0	80.5
Information	283	243	236	16.5	19.9
Financial Activities	980	930	577	5.4	69.8
Prof. & Business Services	4,780	4,237	2,818	12.8	69.6
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,919	1,836	1,003	4.5	91.3
Leisure and Hospitality	5,910	6,732	2,989	-12.2	97.7
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	1,349	1,318	512	2.4	163.5
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	3,800	3,469	2,322	9.5	63.7
Federal Government	1,655	1,498	1,146	10.5	44.4
State Government	438	413	155	6.1	182.6
Local Government	1,707	1,558	1,021	9.6	67.2
Local Education	403	412	204	-2.2	97.5
UNCLASSIFIED	6,027	5,337	2,667	12.9	126.0

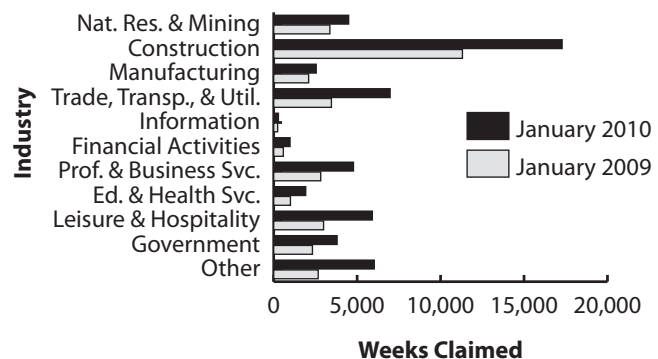
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	6,866	5,760	5,089	19.2	34.9
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,978	1,446	1,569	36.8	26.1
Total Goods-Producing	3,014	2,283	2,471	32.0	22.0
Construction	2,506	1,938	1,840	29.3	36.2
Total Service-Providing	3,249	2,899	2,172	12.1	49.6
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,076	1,042	755	3.3	42.5
Financial Activities	203	174	102	16.7	99.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	905	704	602	28.6	50.3
Educational and Health Svcs.	361	357	273	1.1	32.2
Leisure & Hospitality	517	433	295	19.4	75.3
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	427	420	239	1.7	78.7
UNCLASSIFIED	176	158	207	11.4	-15.0

Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	6,692	5,699	3,445	17.4	94.3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,918	1,431	1,058	34.0	81.3
Total Goods-Producing	3,067	2,341	2,000	31.0	53.4
Construction	2,090	1,429	1,274	46.3	64.1
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	3,213	3,009	1,262	6.8	154.6
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	1,099	1,030	412	6.7	166.7
Financial Activities	108	127	51	-15.0	111.8
Professional & Business Svcs.	583	522	281	11.7	107.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	419	391	207	7.2	102.4
Leisure & Hospitality	535	437	164	22.4	226.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	270	232	110	16.4	145.5
UNCLASSIFIED	142	117	73	21.4	94.5

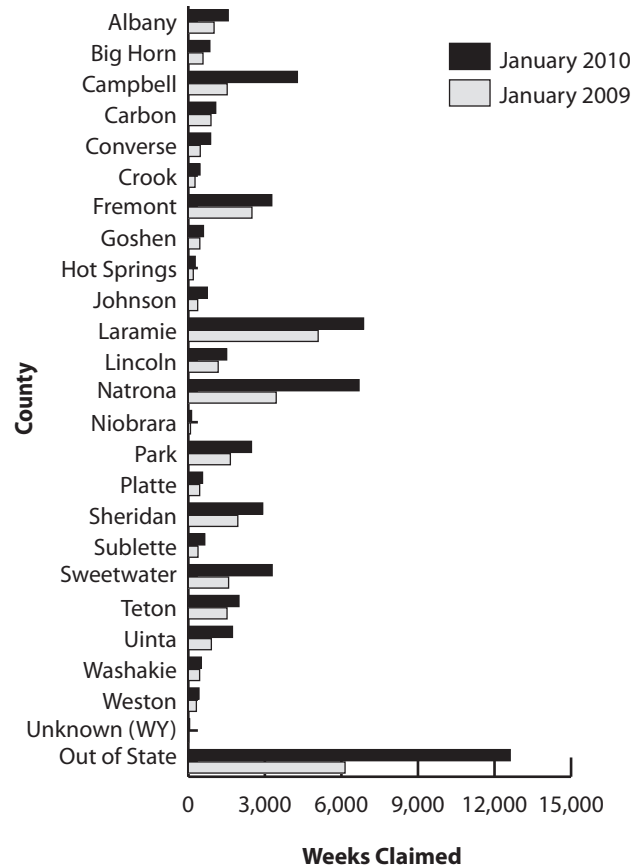
^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

^bDoes not include claimants receiving extended benefits

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, January 2010



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, January 2010



Wyoming Department
of Employment
Research & Planning
P.O. Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602

Official Business
Penalty for Private
Use \$300
Return Service
Requested